SPORTS/ A21

RP billiards' dream pair rips US for title

SPORTS / A21

NBA star T-Mac here again to fulfill an old promise to fans

NEWS/ A5

Nursing test leak: President orders revamp of board

ENTERTAINMENT/ D6

Francis V. Coching is his widow's very own hero

RP can tap $310-M UN fund for spill, says GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

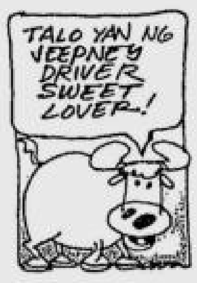
PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY moved to assuage fears of an economic and ecological meltdown in the wake of the MT Solar I oil spill.

Ms Arroyo said the Philippines could be eligible for up to $310 million in claims from a United Nations-administered oil spill liability fund

RP CAN TAP/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, August 29, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 262 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Mr. Playboy feels young at 80—thanks to 3 women



TALO YAN NG JEEPNEY DRIVER SWEET LOVER!

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORnia—At 80, Hugh Hefner, the famed founder of the adult media empire "Playboy," sings praises to three shapely young women who share his bed and his life and to whom he at-

MR. PLAYBOY/ A6

Melo: No sacred cows

Commission to probe even GMA on killings, says ex-justice

By Armand N. Nocum

DECLARING THAT THERE will be "no sacred cows," former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo said yesterday the commission formed to look into political killings was prepared to investigate President Macapagal-Arroyo if the evidence pointed to Malacañang.

Melo, 74, was sworn in by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban as head of the five-member commission that Ms Arroyo created on Aug. 21 amid a local and international outcry against alleged extrajudicial executions of leftist activists and journalists.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring, 58; Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, 58; University of the Philippines Regent Nelia Teodoro-Gonzalez, 82, and Butuan City Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos, 63, also took their oaths of office.

Pueblos replaced Batanes Bishop Camilo Gregorio, 66, who declined to serve. Gregorio had said he did not wish to compromise the independence of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which issues pastoral letters on sensitive political issues.

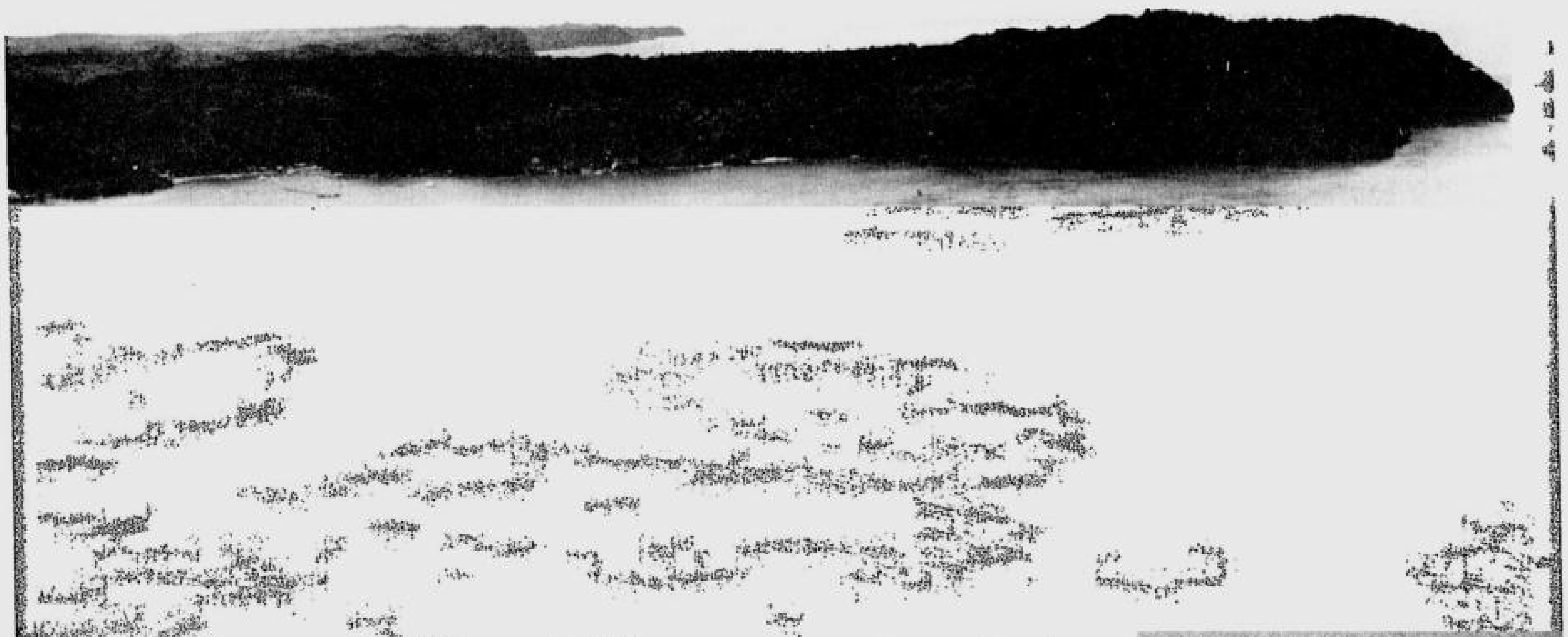
Melo told the INQUIRER by telephone that the commission would not hesitate to disband if anyone interfered in its investigation, repeating the statement he made to reporters and in radio and television interviews after he was sworn in at the Supreme Court.

"Let the chips fall where they may. We will not stop going after anyone involved. There will be no scared cows," Melo said when asked if he was prepared to go as high up as the President or Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, head of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, in his inquiry.

"We will have to look into that … we'll see what witnesses and complainants will say," said Melo, who first joined the government service as an executive assistant in the Malacañang legal office during the administration of President Diosdado Macapagal, Ms Arroyo's father.

Palparan has been roundly denounced by

MELO/ A4



AERIAL view shows marine areas affected by bunker fuel oil oozing from a sunken tanker along the coastline of Nueva Valencia town on Guimaras. EDWIN BACASMAS

ARNOLD ALMACEN, INQUIRER VISAYAS

UGH! Bunker fuel oil (left) sweeps over the white sands and blue waters of the island resort of Nagarao on Guimaras.

Petron vows Guimaras compensation, rehab

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
in Manila
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

WHILE REFUSING TO ADMIT LEGAL liability for the country's worst oil spill, Petron Corp. yesterday said it would compensate residents of Guimaras Island and rehabilitate affected areas "no matter the cost."

"I would like to assure the people of Guimaras that we will be there and do whatever it takes to clean up and rehabilitate the strait and island of Guimaras and other affected areas," Petron chair Nicasio Alcantara said in a statement read by the company's lawyer before the joint congressional oversight committee on clean water.

Alcantara said the company was "committed to restore Guimaras back to its natural beauty no matter the cost. We are ready to work at this for the next 3-5 years or longer."

The statement of Alcantara, who could not attend the hearing, was read by Jose Jesus Laurel, Petron general counsel and vice president for legal and external affairs.

Alcantara's assurance was the closest to an admission of responsibility the senators and members of the House of Representatives got from Petron, a corporation owned 40 percent each by the Philippine government and Saudi Aramco.

The MT Solar I was carrying 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil belonging to Petron when it sank off Guimaras on Aug. 11.

The provincial government has threatened to file a P1-billion damage suit against Petron and the owners of the Solar I if they fail to remove the sunken tanker in the Guimaras Strait and pay compensation to affected residents.

Jimmy Baban, provincial planning and development coordinator, told the committee that the oil spill had affected 53 of the province's 98 barangays, 320 km of its coastline, 58 ha of sea-

PETRON/ A4

Microbes can help rid seas of black sludge

By Blanche S. Rivera
and Christian V. Esguerra

MICROBES COULD HELP CLEAN UP THE shores of Guimaras Island, which have been blackened by a massive oil spill from a tanker that sank off its coast.

Three species of microbes are known to eat the hydrocarbon content of oil, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The microbes—*Pseudomonas azelaica, Serratia marcescans* and *Xanthomonas maltophilia*—die soon after eating the hydrocarbons, which account for up to 87 percent of oil.

Left by itself, oil degrades over time

MICROBES/ A15

Junk Cha-cha petition, foes ask Comelec

By Jerome Aning

ONE OF THOSE WHO SIGNED THE MALAcañang-backed petition to change the Constitution has been dead for three years. Others signed it because they were deceived, cajoled or threatened.

Whatever the case, the campaign to amend the 19-year-old Charter and install a parliamentary system in the Philippines through a people's initiative flouts the law.

Using these arguments, eight groups and individuals yesterday filed a barrage of lawsuits with the Commission on Elections asking the poll body to throw out the petition filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and local government officials identified with President Macapagal-Arroyo seeking to dismantle the decades-old presidential system.

The countersuits opposing the people's initiative were filed by the citizens' group OneVoice, three lawyers' organizations, the Akbayan party-list group and three individuals.

In the main, OneVoice and the others said the Comelec had no legal authority to entertain the petition because of a ruling by the Supreme Court in 1997 that there was no enabling law that would allow Charter amendments through people's initiatives.

The lawyers' groups were the Concerned

JUNK/ A6

Kiefer, '24' TV series lead Emmy Award winners

LOS ANGELES—THE GROUNDbreaking action series "24," which turns one dangerous day into a season, ended with a bang as it won Emmys for Best Drama Series and Best Actor for lead star Kiefer Sutherland.

"The Office," the US version of the British television show of the same name, was honored as Best Comedy. But its star, Steve Carell, lost the award for Best Actor in a Comedy Series to Tony Shalhoub of "Monk."

One big front-runner, sexy medical drama "Grey's Anatomy," was shut out in the 58th annual Primetime Emmy Awards, presented at the Shrine Auditorium on Sunday (yesterday morning in Manila) by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

"Every once in a while you'll have an evening that just reminds you that you're given too much and this is that evening," Sutherland said as he accepted his trophy.

The series also won a directing award for a total of three, a vindication after five seasons of keeping audiences on the edge of their couches as stalwart agent Jack Bauer (Sutherland) saves America from terrorism.

Although Emmy nominations rule changes left some grumbling about snubbed shows including "Lost," the revisions may have opened the door for an offbeat series like "The Office," a smart satire about cubicle life, and for "24" to prevail.

Mariska Hargitay of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and Julia Louis-Dreyfus of the freshman comedy "The New Adventures of Old Christine" struck Emmy gold with lead actress awards for drama and comedy, respectively.

The awards ceremony, hosted by Conan O'Brien, initially followed a predictable path Sunday as Shalhoub

KIEFER/ A6

AFP

KIEFER Sutherland shows off his Emmys for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms. Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/28/06

Con-Ass bid in House only 2 votes short of 'Magic 194'

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE RESOLUTION calling for a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) to pave the way for a shift to a parliamentary system needs just two signatures for the "Magic 194."

At a press conference yesterday, Speaker Jose de Venecia announced that the House was close to complying with the constitutional requirement that three-fourths of all members of Congress could convert the legislature into an assembly to introduce amendments to, or the revision of, the Constitution.

Con-Ass would serve as a "reserve ammunition" if the people's initiative fails, De Venecia said, admitting to the two-pronged strategy of the administration to ensure the prompt revision of the fundamental law.

In the presence of Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, the Speaker said the government had already informed the country's Asian neighbors that the Arroyo administration would be embarking on constitutional reforms—a shift from a bicameral-presidential system to a unicameral-parliamentary system.

People's initiative is a third mode of amending the Constitution by direct action of the people which is provided for in the 1987 Constitution, in addition to the traditional methods of constituent assembly and constitutional convention.

De Venecia said the initiative was "a direct action by the people," that not even the Senate, which favors a constitutional convention, could obstruct.

"If this (Charter change) does not happen this year, this will not happen for the next 25 years," warned the Speaker. "You know why? Because 12 senators will be elected by May of next year. The next president will never allow the shift. So goodbye amending the Constitution."

De Venecia said President Macapagal-Arroyo was willing to "share, to reduce her powers with a prime minister" although Malacañang had said that Cha-cha would not cut short her term.

FIRST GENTLEMAN Mike Arroyo shows a bank certificate upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Germany Monday night.
JESS YUSON

Mike Arroyo back, tells Cayetano to quit

By Nikko Dizon

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE Miguel "Mike" Arroyo yesterday demanded the resignation of opposition Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano for "shamelessly fooling the Filipino people with the clear objective" of ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"[Congressman] Cayetano should resign from Congress for deliberately manufacturing evidence, maliciously lying, and shamelessly fooling the Filipino people with the clear objective to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo and grab power, at all cost," the First Gentleman said in his arrival statement from Germany.

Arroyo, armed with documents from two senior executives of the HypoVereinsbank in Munich, said he had "the truth, the indisputable proof of [Cayetano's] malicious and fabricated, brazen lie."

Arroyo identified the German bank officers as Frau Evi Vollman, head of the general secretary of the board and Dr. Michael Henninger, chief legal counsel.

As part of the opposition's move to impeach Ms Arroyo, Cayetano alleged that the First Family had a multi-million dollar account in a bank in Germany.

Int'l court rules in favor of Piatco

By Nikko Dizon

AN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION court in Singapore has ordered the Philippine government to "give up possession" of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3 to it's builder, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), until a valid writ of possession is issued by a Philippine court.

"The respondent, its officers and agents, are ordered to cease occupation and give up possession of Naia Terminal 3 and not to obstruct the claimant in entering into occupation and taking up possession of Naia Terminal 3," the Singapore-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Arbitration Tribunal said in a 14-page decision dated Aug. 23.

The decision was signed by tribunal chair Prof. Michael Pryles.

The tribunal, nevertheless, said that "nothing in this order is intended to prohibit or restrain the respondent from entering into occupation or taking up possession of Naia Terminal 3 pursuant to a valid and enforceable writ of possession issued by a court in the Philippines authorizing the same."

The respondent is the Philippine government, while the claimant is Piatco, the consortium that built and originally owned Naia 3.

Piatco filed an arbitration case in the tribunal seeking interim measures to maintain the status quo, following the government's expropriation of Naia 3 in 2004.

A Pasay City court had ordered the government to pay Piatco P3 billion for Naia 3.

AEROBRIDGES lie idle at Naia3 as government and Piatco slug it out in courts and arbitration boards here and abroad for control of the country's most modern airport terminal.
ROGER MARGALLO

For its part, the government, represented by the Office of the Solicitor General, questioned the jurisdiction of the ICC.

In deciding the case, the tribunal recognized the Philippine Supreme Court's decision of Dec. 19, 2005, holding the writ of possession issued by a Pasay City Regional Trial Court in abeyance, "pending proof of actual payment of the proferred value of P3 billion to the claimant."

The writ was issued on the government by the late Pasay Judge Henrick Gingoyon on Dec. 21, 2004.

The tribunal also took note of the fact that in answering a question posed by Pryles, Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura "conceded that the (government), through the Miaa (Manila International Airport Authority), purported to enter Terminal 3 in reliance upon the writ of possession."

"It is now clear from the Supreme Court's ruling in the Gingoyon case that the writ of possession should not have been issued and that it is effectively in abeyance until the proferred value of 3 billion pesos is paid," the tribunal said.

"Mr. Nachura also stated that the Miaa was still present in Terminal 3 together with personnel from the contractor Takenaka. He sought to justify the continued presence of personnel from Miaa on the basis of police powers which were not clearly established to the satisfaction of the tribunal," the ICC added.

The government had continually deferred payment of the P3 billion to Piatco on one pretext or another, despite averring that the money was in an escrow account in Land Bank.

The government, through the Miaa, on Aug. 24 finally moved to pay Piatco the P3 billion.

Payment was withheld, however, after the Court of Appeals issued a temporary restraining order against Miaa and the bank on a petition of Rep. Salacnib Baterina.

The following day, Piatco lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles wrote Nachura saying Piatco should still be paid the P3 billion.

De los Angeles said that Piatco and its authorized representatives "shall enter into occupation and take up possession" of Naia 3 on Aug. 31, or within five days of receipt of the letter.

"We expect that you will properly advise GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines), its officers and agents and its authorized representatives not to obstruct Piatco and its representatives in doing so," De los Angeles said.

Yesterday, Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi told reporters government lawyers will file today a motion to quash the TRO so that the P3 billion payment to Piatco could proceed.

Cusi also said that Piatco should bring before Philippine courts the Singapore tribunal's decision "if they want that enforced."

"The ICC decision has no jurisdiction here," Cusi said, echoing the government's stand.

IN THE KNOW

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF ARBITRATION was established in 1923 as the arbitration body of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), an organization founded in 1919 in Paris to promote and support global trade and globalization.

For most of this century, the ICC has been the world's leading organization in the field of international commercial dispute resolution, according to its web site (www.iccwbo.org).

The court has taken the lead in securing the worldwide acceptance of arbitration as the most effective way of resolving international commercial disputes. It has administered well over 13,000 international arbitration cases involving parties and arbitrators from more than 170 countries and territories.

Since 1999, the court has received new cases at a rate of more than 500 a year.

The ICC has direct access to national governments all over the world through its national committees.

Officials of ICC Philippines are: former trade secretary Rizalino Navarro, chair; former prime minister Cesar E. A. Virata, chairman emeritus; Custodio O. Parlade, vice chair; Benjamin R. Punongbayan, treasurer; Antonio I. Basilio, secretary general.
PDI Research

Palace assures foreign investors

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHAT CONTRACT?

Malacañang yesterday assured foreign investors there was nothing to get jittery about after the reported cancellation of a Malaysian firm's right to take part in the development of oil deposits in the Camago-Malampaya oil field in Palawan because there was no contract to speak of.

"There is no contract (between Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. and Mitra Energy Ltd.) to talk about so there is nothing to worry about," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in an interview.

Ermita said that when President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 556, "she was only instructing the PNOC-EC head (Eduardo Mañalac) that all government contracts should be bid out, including the development of oil reserves in Malampaya."

Mañalac had approved the exploration, or farm-in, agreement with Mitra Energy in the development of the Malampaya oil field to the consternation of a consortium of local wildcatters led by Philodrill Corp., which insisted on its previous claim on the oil find in northwest Palawan and questioned Mitra Energy's financial capability.

The EO that virtually revoked the Mitra contract was issued on June 17.

The Agence France Presse story that appeared in the INQUIRER yesterday and which revealed the supposed contract rescission said the agreement between PNOC-EC and Mitra was signed on June 1 and the presidential EO was released on Aug. 11 but backdated to June 17.

It also said that as a result of the rescission, foreign investors had become jittery about investing in the Philippines.

Mitra Energy, in a statement, said the Malampaya Oil Rim "CMOL" development "was properly tendered out by PNOC not only to Philippine companies, but to companies based in the United Kingdom, Norway, Malaysia, Singapore, US, China and Indonesia from March to May 2006."

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
AiA
Trucks & Equipment
3-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
AUG. 31 - SEPT. 1 & 2, 2006
(Thursday, Friday & Saturday) Sale Starts at 8:00 a.m.
Inspection Dates: AUG. 28, 29 & 30, 2006
(Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)
INSPECTION ON-GOING
Online Tender Auction AUG.28-SEPT.1
UPGRADED QUALITY UNITS AND LATE MODEL TRUCKS!
AUCTION STYLE : PARADE
OVER 1,500 ITEMS TO BE SOLD
37 - CARGO TRUCKS — ISUZU GIGA CARGO TRUCK
35 - TRACTOR HEADS — ISUZU GIGA EXR TRACTOR HEAD
27 - AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS — VARIOUS FORD 4WD
20 - DUMPS — ISUZU ELF DBL. CAB MINI DUMP (Late Model)
4 - FIRE TRUCKS — ISUZU FWD DBL. CAB FIRE TRUCK-2.2KL
118 - EXCAVATORS — CAT 320L
ALSO AVAILABLE: LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLES — MAZDA MPV (Late Model)
2 - ASPHALT FINISHERS — MITS. MF55WH ASPHALT FINISHER
27 - MOTOR GRADERS — KOMATSU GD625A-1
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Tel #: (63-47) 252-3333 • Fax #: (63-47) 252-6840 · (63-47) 252-1441
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. Tel: (02) 858-8888
Inquire & Register Online via: http://www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Email: aiainc@subictel.com

3 suspected Metro-bound bombers arrested in South

By Luige A. del Puerto

MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL arrested three men carrying two suspected improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Mindanao on Sunday, a ranking police official said yesterday.

The three were believed to be on their way to Metro Manila and were about to board a passenger ship at Polloc port in Parang, Maguindanao, when they were nabbed at around 2 p.m., according to a report by Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Police.

The men were identified as Razak Macarimbang, 46; Wahad Sandigan, 34, and Sammy Gampong, 26, all of Matanog, Maguindanao.

The report said the three belonged to "SOG-MILF." In police parlance, SOG stands for special operations group, while MILF is the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"This is the result of an initial investigation and is still subject to verification," Goltiao said in a phone interview.

Military intelligence officers were still interrogating the men, he said.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, told the INQUIRER the three suspects were members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group.

"Definitely they were on a bombing mission," Ando said.

According to the ARMM police report, "the three suspects were ordered by the MILF general staff to stage bombing activities in Metro Manila in exchange for a huge amount of money given by a certain Taha."

"The suspects were scheduled to proceed to Manila via SuperFerry 16 docked at (Polloc port) when apprehended. Recovered from the suspects were two homemade components believed to be IED(s)," the report said.

It added that the suspects were in the custody of the 603rd Brigade of the Philippine Army.

The ARMM police did not say what kind of IEDs were seized. Goltiao said the intelligence community had been monitoring the men for sometime. He did not elaborate.

The Philippine National Police leadership, meanwhile, denied yesterday a recent intelligence report that two suspected terrorist bombers had arrived in Metro Manila.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said the police also saw no need to raise the terror alert in the country.

"The report is not true," Calderon said.

He, nevertheless, directed the Metro Manila police chief and intelligence officers to verify the report which was quoted by The Associated Press.

He said the police did not want to unnecessarily alarm the people.

"The status of the PNP is still normal at this time. I have given the regional directors the discretion to (raise the) alert status," Calderon said, pointing out that every time the anniversary of a major attack loomed, in this case the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the United States, reports or rumors of bombings abounded. *With Jeoffrey Maitem and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Enrile clarifies bill vs terror

By TJ Burgonio

THE ANTI-TERROR bill, once it's enacted into law before the yearend, will not put an end to the scourge of the Abu Sayyaf in southern Philippines, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile conceded yesterday.

"No, it will not put a final nail," Enrile, sponsor of the much-delayed measure, said when asked if the legislation would put an end to the reign of the al-Qaida linked terror group based in Mindanao during a forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

A law could "not collar" aberrant behavior, he said. But since it would be implemented by the powerful Anti-Terrorism Council chaired by the President, it should be enforced hand-in-hand with ground operations in the jungles against members of the extremist group.

"You still have to operate against them. These people, when they go into this kind of adventure, they believe in it. Of course there are mercenaries. These people operate in complete secrecy. They believe in what they're doing. They forget their families," Enrile said during the forum in Makati City.

He was confident that the Senate would pass the bill, which was still being debated on the floor, and reconcile this with the House version at the bicameral conference for enactment into law by the end of September.

The senator said there was no pressure from Malacañang to rush the passage of the bill ahead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's scheduled trip to the United States during the last quarter of the year. The US government was said to be keenly anticipating the passage of the bill.

Under the bill, members of a foreign terror group, say the Jemaah Islamiyah, would be detained and tried in the country if they committed "overt acts" of terrorism here. If they managed to flee abroad after mounting a terrorist attack, they could be extradited to Manila, according to Enrile.

He said the law would be enforced not only within Philippine archipelago, but would cover those who commit terror acts on a Philippine ship, air ship and Philippine embassies and consulates, and other diplomatic premises.

Cash for your wedding.

Fast. Easy. No collateral.

Get a chance to
Win a Ford Focus

From August 23 to October 23, 2006 get a CitiFinancial loan and get a chance to win a Ford Focus 1.6L or a fabulous trip to Boracay or Palawan.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2814 series of 2006.

Call CitiFinancial now at **750-0322**
or **Text CASH** & send to:
2327 for Globe or
0917-890-2327 for Smart & Sun Cellular.

Ford PERSONAL LOANS SEAIR

citi financial

A member of citigroup

*All Loans subject to Credit Standards, Terms and Conditions.

Fraxel LASER TREATMENT

It's like digital skin retouching!

Compare your most recent photo with an old one taken 10 years ago. Notice the difference? Eight out of ten women would say they wish they can erase lines and wrinkles on their faces, lighten acne scars and some other dark areas or correct flaws on their skin. After all, who wouldn't want to restore that fresh, soft, smooth, healthy skin of one's youth?

Think of your skin as a portrait or digital photograph in need of high-quality restoration or touch-up. With today's advancements, you can repair your skin – diminish wrinkles, skin discolorations and other signs of aging – like you would repair an old photogragh. As photographs are altered or retouched pixel by pixel, smoothing out irregularities and blemishes while restoring color and clarity, Fraxel Laser Treatment repairs damaged skin spot by spot, dot by dot, affecting only a fraction of your skin at a time with thousands of tiny microscopic laser spots. It's actually like digital tissue editing or retouching!

Fraxel Laser Treatment works by producing thousands of deep, tiny columns in your skin, known as microthermal treatment zones. Unlike ablative lasers that remove the top layer of skin, Fraxel is "fractional" in that it intensively treats old epidermal pigment cells, a very small fraction of the skin at a time, without affecting any of the surrounding tissue. This creates a unique wound-healing response by sparing healthy tissue. Hence, healing time is reduced and it promotes the skin's natural process to create new, healthier tissue to replace the damaged cells.

Women today have become more demanding. They want treatments to be natural and they want it with as little recovery time and maintenance as possible. US FDA-approved, Fraxel's superior results are often compared to the results of ablative laser peels like CO2 laser resurfacing but minus the pain and long healing process. Patients can apply make-up immediately after the treatment. The treatment is typically well-tolerated and feels like slight pin-prick sensations. A topical anesthetic cream is applied prior to the treatment to allay any initial discomfort.

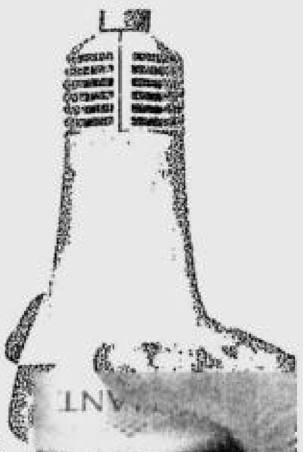
A water-soluble blue tint is also applied on the treatment area to increase the contrast of tiny folds in the skin's surface, allowing the Fraxel laser handpiece to precisely read the discreet contours of the treatment area. The Fraxel handpiece is gently guided across the skin like an airbrush, painting micro-treatments beneath the surface of your skin. After the treatment, the blue tint and the anesthetic ointment are washed away.

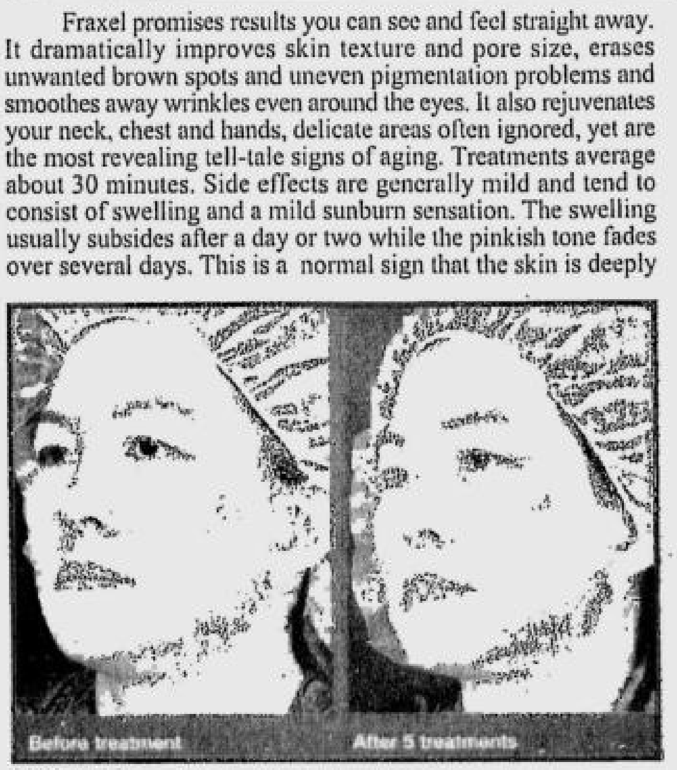
The Fraxel laser is the digital approach to touching up the imperfections of the skin, pixel by pixel!

Fraxel promises results you can see and feel straight away. It dramatically improves skin texture and pore size, erases unwanted brown spots and uneven pigmentation problems and smoothes away wrinkles even around the eyes. It also rejuvenates your neck, chest and hands, delicate areas often ignored, yet are the most revealing tell-tale signs of aging. Treatments average about 30 minutes. Side effects are generally mild and tend to consist of swelling and a mild sunburn sensation. The swelling usually subsides after a day or two while the pinkish tone fades over several days. This is a normal sign that the skin is deeply healing, that there's new collagen growth and good blood circulation. Over the following weeks and months, the body repairs the deeper dermal tissues that have been affected by the Fraxel treatment, producing longer beneficial changes associated with a healthy, youthful appearance.

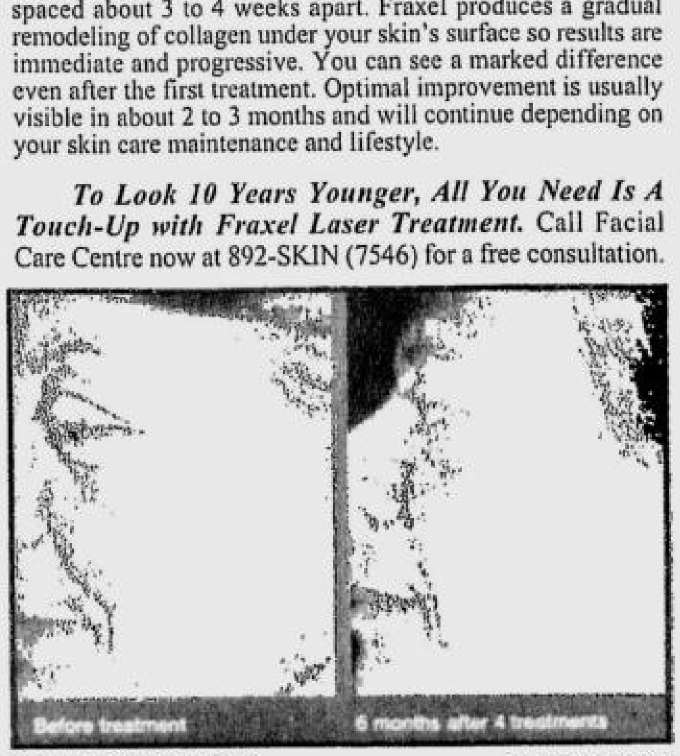
Each Fraxel Laser Treatment targets between 15 and 25 percent of the skin's surface. Clinical studies suggest that on average, an effective treatment regimen is up to 5 sessions spaced about 3 to 4 weeks apart. Fraxel produces a gradual remodeling of collagen under your skin's surface so results are immediate and progressive. You can see a marked difference even after the first treatment. Optimal improvement is usually visible in about 2 to 3 months and will continue depending on your skin care maintenance and lifestyle.

To Look 10 Years Younger, All You Need Is A Touch-Up with Fraxel Laser Treatment. Call Facial Care Centre now at 892-SKIN (7546) for a free consultation.





MELASMA



SKIN RESURFACING

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Melo: No sacred cows in probe of killings

From page A1

leftist and human rights organizations for allegedly orchestrating the killings and kidnappings of activists.

The groups said some 700 leftist workers had been murdered, a figure that included combatants. The INQUIRER listed at least 247 assassinations, while the Philippine National Police figure was half that.

'Executioner'

The Army general, described by his critics as the "executioner," was cited by Ms Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address on July 24 for his counterinsurgency campaign—a move her opponents described as an endorsement of the extrajudicial killings.

In the impeachment complaint that her allies in the House of Representatives trashed last week, Ms Arroyo was accused of engaging in political killings, among other charges that included stealing the 2004 presidential election and receiving illegal gambling payoffs. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Melo said he would summon Palparan and other military personnel in the course of the commission's inquiry.

"We will call everybody who is involved or can contribute information concerning this," said Melo.

He welcomed a statement by Palparan, who is retiring on Sept. 11, that he would not hesitate to testify.

"We will not allow ourselves to be a stamp pad or our independence will be undermined. As I said, the moment that is done, then we will close shop … We will say we cannot work under this condition, we will simply say: '*Alsa balutan* (Pack up)," he said.

Melo said the commission would attempt to "solve the crimes and probably find out if there is a pattern and what group is responsible." It would start by obtaining a list of those killed and inviting the families of the victims and witnesses, he said.

Start of inquiry

He said the commission would look into how the police and military were conducting their investigations and to turn over evidence that they had gathered.

Melo said the commission would begin its inquiry in two weeks and conclude it in four to six months with a report to the Department of Justice, the National Bureau of Investigation and other government agencies that could then initiate formal criminal proceedings.

He acknowledged that there could be problems ahead, including a "deficient" Witness Protection Program.

"The witnesses are protected by the police and military. If you are accusing them, how can you be protected," he said.

Melo also noted that while the commission was authorized to issue subpoenas, it had no contempt powers. But he said he was hopeful that since the President created the panel, the people would respect it.

"We ask the public for their full cooperation. Please point us to the right direction and we will do our best. We need to stop the cycle of violence," Melo said.

'Judge us by our actions'

To those who doubt the commission's resolve, Melo said: "Judge us by our actions, time will come when I think the public will be the proper judge on that and it will be on the basis of our actions." He said accepting his appointment to the commission was a "challenge to do a little bit for the country."

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said he had ordered the military to cooperate fully with the commission so that "we will know the facts of every case." The Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, he said, "condemn these extrajudicial killings."

"We have to work within the rule of law," Cruz told reporters. Referring to Palparan, Cruz said, "He's being painted in a certain light, which might be different from what's happening on the ground. The Melo Commission is a good thing so the facts will be established."

"Personally, if the Melo Commission finds evidence against any member of the AFP, that his activity is outside of the law, I will really bring him to court-martial. That is unacceptable," Cruz said.

PNP task force

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno yesterday said he had ordered the Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig to cooperate fully with the Melo Commission.

"I've ordered Task Force Usig to submit its findings to the commission. I've also instructed it to take directions from the commission in the conduct of its investigation," Puno said in a news conference.

"The Melo Commission can rest assured that Task Force Usig will be behind it 100 percent."

The President directed the task force on Aug. 1 to solve at least 10 cases of activists' killings.

Puno said he was confident the task force would meet the President's deadline of 10 weeks. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Dona Z. Pazzibugan; Tech Torres, INQ7.net*

Petron vows Guimaras compensation, rehab

From page A1

weed farms and 454 ha of mangroves, depriving at least 3,918 families or 26,000 individuals of their livelihood.

The oil spill has also affected four towns in Iloilo.

Insurance of up to $300M

At the hearing, Clemente Cancio, president of Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of the sunken tanker, said the vessel was "amply covered" by a $250-million to $300-million insurance policy from the Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Club of Luxembourg and its partner, the International Oil Pollution Fund.

The vessel was on its way from the refinery of Petron in Limay, Bataan, to Zambonga del Sur and was carrying 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil when it sank on Aug. 11.

Cancio said the insurance policy covered property, sea and onshore cleanup, economic losses in fishing and tourism, and rehabilitation of the environment.

"We would like to convey our deepest regrets over this very, very unfortunate accident. We are very, very sorry to the people of Guimaras," Cancio said.

The oil spill has already cost the country more than P100 million in lost revenues from key industries, according to a nongovernment organization.

The shrimp industry in Pulupandan town in Negros Occidental alone has lost P50 million, according to the Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Network.

Another P50 million was reportedly lost by the anchovy industry in Valladolid town, according to the group's fact sheet.

On top of these losses, the PHE Network said some 10,000 fishermen had been bereft of daily income totally between P3 million and P5 million. The estimate didn't include the P2.5 million that the Philippine Coast Guard purportedly spent for vessels in the cleanup.

Demand letter

Plaridel Nava, provincial legal officer, told the INQUIRER that his office had sent a demand letter to Petron on Aug. 25, giving the oil firm five days to either remove the vessel or siphon off the remaining oil from the tanker.

But the oil firm had asked for 10 more days and assured the provincial government that it would pay for damages.

Nava said Petron had asked the provincial government not to pursue litigation and instead process the claims for damages of residents, mostly fisherfolk who have lost their livelihood.

"We are willing to settle amicably as long as the residents are compensated and the sunken vessel and its contents are removed," Nava told the INQUIRER.

At the hearing, Laurel said Petron had taken the responsibility of containing the oil spill, recovering the sunken tanker and mapping out the long-term rehabilitation of Guimaras.

"We are doing everything humanly possible to assist those affected. In our effort to attend to the needs of the people immediately, we may have inadvertently set aside our equally important obligation to keep the media and the rest of the country informed of what we are doing," Alcantara's statement said.

Spokesperson's line

Sen. Edgardo Angara asked Laurel why Petron spokesperson Virginia Ruivivar had been saying Petron was not legally responsible for the oil spill.

"So the message given to the public was really depressing and I myself was wondering how could a corporation 40-percent owned by the government say that to the public," Angara said.

Laurel replied: "We'd like to stress that … if we were to admit liability, then we will have a difficulty proving …" But before he could finish, he was cut off by Angara.

"Not liability immediately at that point but assurance to the public that (you'll) do everything to contain the spill, recognize the tremendous environmental damage. Something like that but it did not come at all. It's only coming out during this hearing," the senator said.

Laurel said the Petron chair and top management had said that over and above the legal and contractual obligations and faultfinding, "we have the moral obligation and social responsibility simply because it is a Petron product and we immediately mobilized our people."

Effective communication

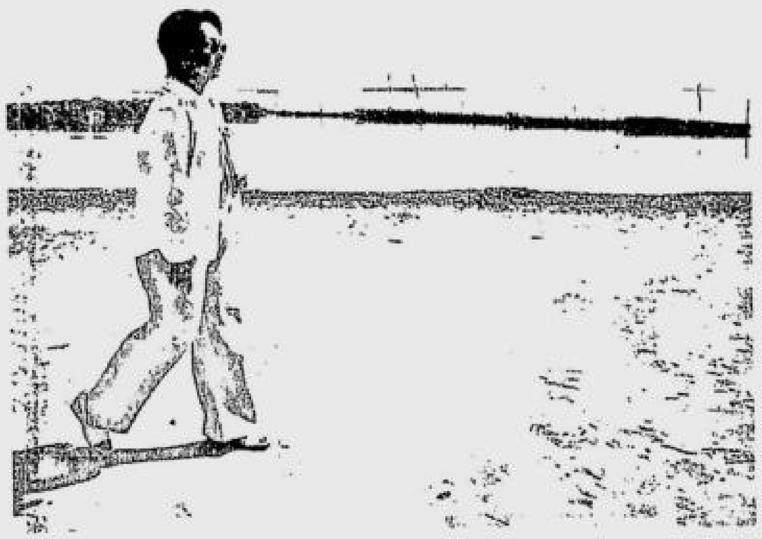
He said Petron's fault was its failure to "communicate effectively" to the people what the company had done immediately after the oil spill.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, Senate panel chair, said at the start of the hearing that it was "in aid of legislation, not prosecution."

As an assurance to Petron and the tanker owner, Cayetano said the hearing was meant to result in the crafting of laws and not in the prosecution of the private sector.

Angara said Laurel's statements, given under oath, should be taken as enough assurance to Congress and the public that Petron would undertake the cost of the cleanup and rehabilitation.

"I thought this is a good presentation … and the committee, I think, will take every word of this presentation as a guarantee, as a word of honor," Angara said. Laurel agreed. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra in Manila; and Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo walks on the shore of the Costa Aguada resort on Inampulugan Island on Guimaras during an inspection trip to the oil spill area. LYN RILLON

It's now 'Solar oil spill'

By Christine O. Avendaño

INAMPULUGAN ISLAND, Guimaras—President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday the oil spill that hit Guimaras Island should be called the "Solar oil spill."

"Let us not call it the Guimaras oil spill. Guimaras should not be blamed for it," she said in Filipino during a media pool interview at the Costa Aguada island resort here.

Ms Arroyo underscored the need to tell the public that the spill did not cover the whole of Guimaras Island.

While the incident has resulted in 300 cancellations of reservations in some beach resorts, she said that authorities all the more should work to restore the people's confidence in the island's tourist attraction.

She said she was inviting Lory Tan, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, to join Task Force Guimaras, supervising rehabilitation efforts and cited the need for more scientific studies to help the affected areas.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, who suggested changing the appellation of the spill, told the President at a meeting of the task force that the spill affected only seven of the 24 beach resorts on the island.

Tan told reporters he and the others at the meeting agreed to the change of the spill's name.

"If we say Guimaras oil spill, we're going to kill Guimaras," Tan said. "If we say MT Solar I, at least the tanker has sunk."

He noted that the massive oil spill that happened in Alaska in 1989 was referred to as the Exxon Valdez oil spill after the tanker that caused the disaster.

Some reporters witnessed an irritated President telling certain people that she wanted the media to see a resort not affected by the oil spill. The Costa Aguada resort has been affected by the spill, as evidenced by spill booms deployed nearby.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 29, 2006
Beheading of John the Baptist

1st Reading: Jer 1:17-19
Gospel: Mark 6:17-29

Herod had ordered John to be arrested and had him bound and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. Herod had married her and John had told him, "It is not right for you to live with your brother's wife." So Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she could not because Herod respected John. He knew John to be an upright and holy man and kept him safe. And he liked listening to him, although he became very disturbed whenever he heard him.

Herodias had her chance on Herod's birthday, when he gave a dinner for all the senior government officials, military chiefs and the leaders of Galilee. On that occasion the daughter of Herodias came in and danced; and she delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you." And he went so far as to say with many oaths, "I will give you anything you ask, even half my kingdom." She went out to consult her mother, "What shall I ask for?" The mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist, here and now, on a dish."

The king was very displeased, but he would not refuse in front of his guests because of his oaths. So he sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded John in prison; then he brought the head on a dish and gave it to the girl. And the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard of this, they came and took his body and buried it.

Commentary

A description of the prophet John who must call the people, the king and the leaders to repentance; standing against them all, knowing they will all fight against him but they will not prevail. God will be with him to deliver him. But this is the telling of the imprisonment and beheading of John by Herod in collusion with Herodias and her daughter. John speaks the truth and the Lord God is with him, as he preaches, while being in prison and as he is beheaded. God is our refuge in life and in death. Our hope is in God from our mother's wombs to our burial places. Are we standing firm?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

RP can tap $310-M UN fund for spill, says GMA

From page A1

and that damage control experts from the United States, Japan, France and Australia had gone to Guimaras Island to help salvage the sunken tanker.

She also ordered the advanced implementation—from 2015 to 2008—of an international convention mandating all oil tankers to have double hulls and double bottoms.

Maximum claim

Ms Arroyo made the announcement in an interview on dzXL-RMN radio before she flew to Guimaras to try and convince people, especially tourists, that the island was safe for visitors.

In earlier moves, Ms Arroyo appealed to Congress to speed up the approval of a higher budget to address the oil spill calamity, and ordered a full-scale probe to ferret out those responsible for the disaster and make them pay.

"The Philippines, being a signatory to the 1992 civil liability and fund conventions, has a right to compensation for any damage caused by oil spills such as the one in Guimaras," she said.

"The maximum claim that the fund can give for one event is $310 million."

The fund is administered by a UN special agency, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), under the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (Fund Convention).

Far-reaching probe

The President reiterated her intention to get to the bottom of the incident.

"I assure each of our citizens and groups worried by the tragedy that we will have a far-reaching investigation of the whole incident to [learn] what really happened, who should be responsible, and what steps will be taken in order not to repeat this kind of incident," she said.

Spot checks of tankers

She noted that the Board of Marine Inquiry had begun to gather evidence on the seaworthiness of the tanker, the qualifications of the crew, the validity of its license, and whether there was negligence.

The President also ordered a spot check of all 214,000 tankers plying Philippine waters to verify their seaworthiness.

She instructed Transportation Secretary Larry Mendoza not to wait until 2015 to force tankers to be double-hulled or double-bottomed under an international maritime convention.

"From now up to 2008, we will try to force all ships and their owners to comply with this mandate," she said.

Damage assessment

"We will establish sea lanes where the ships carrying dangerous chemicals would be forced to pass away from tourist and economic centers."

The UN Development Program, the UN Children's Fund and the IMO are providing technical assistance in the cleanup and in the assessment of the environmental and economic damage from the oil spill.

Using funds from a $16-million UN grant, the IMO is providing technical assistance in the cleanup. Unicef will provide emergency health kits, drugs, water purifying tablets and tarpaulins.

Help from UNDP

The UNDP, along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has conducted a site assessment to determine livelihood interventions in Guimaras.

"With the UNDP on board, the documentation of the incident is expected to be more transparent and participatory," it said in a statement.

The agency invests about $15 million in environment programs annually in the Philippines, one of 17 mega-diverse countries in the world, which together account for 80 percent of the world's biodiversity.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said the tanker had been located about 700 meters (2,296 feet) under the sea.

Officials are waiting for a Japanese salvage ship to arrive later this week and examine the tanker with a remote-controlled probe before deciding what to do next, Reyes said.

If the tanker still has oil in it, the government may siphon it off because the tanker could break apart if it is lifted, Reyes said, adding that entombing the vessel under the seabed would be too costly.

"We have to do this quick because some people say it's a disaster again waiting to happen," Reyes told ABS-CBN television. *With reports from Blanche S. Rivera and AP*

Corrections

IN THE Aug. 27 issue, a story on Page A2—"Women broadcasters come together for Greg Cendaña"—misstated the duration of his tenure as information minister. Cendaña served as information minister from 1980—not 1970—to 1986.

* * *

IN EARLY COPIES OF THE Aug. 28 issue, a story on Page A19—"Militants miss their nemesis who was 'funny, sophisticated'"—misstated that retired PNP Director Vidal Querol was a widower with a fianceè. Querol is very much married and does not have a fianceè.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 28 issue, the front-page banner story—"DOJ likens oil spill to Ultra stampede"—misstated that the National Bureau of Investigation had recommended that ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez be charged, along with other network officials, with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and injuries in connection with the "Wowowee" stampede in February. The NBI did not recommend that charges be filed against Lopez.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

GMA orders revamp of Board of Nursing

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERday ordered a sweeping revamp of the Board of Nursing as well as the realignment of the Philippine Regulation Commission (PRC) following the cheating controversy in the June nursing exams to bring back confidence in the government's licensing program for professionals.

The President vowed to come down hard on the culprits but assured the innocent they would be spared, with those who passed the exams unlikely to be ordered to retake the test and the PRC chief allowed to keep her post.

In an interview over dzXL radio, the President said, "I talked to the PRC chair (Leonor Tripon-Rosero) and I told her to look for a solution to punish only the guilty without punishing the innocent."

The President was reacting to suggestions that all examinees be made to retake the exam.

"I told (Rosero) the entire nursing board should be reorganized. I also talked to CHEd (Commission on Higher Education) chair Carlito Puno and told him I would sign an executive order placing all nursing review centers under the CHEd," Ms Arroyo said. The CHEd oversees all the colleges and universities in the country.

Aside from replacing the entire nursing board, which propounds the questions for the nursing exam, the President said: "I also plan to place the PRC under the oversight of the Department of Labor and Employment so that the Cabinet would have a greater handle on the body."

The President, however, said she had no plans to replace Rosero, who is her dentist.

"The PRC chairperson is responsible for a lot of board exams and this is the only one that had problems. So the problem is with the nursing board, the nursing exams alone," she said.

The President, at the same time, said she was reviewing the recommendations made by CHEd Commissioner Mona Dumlao-Valisno to professionalize the PRC's examination system.

Baguio, Sta. Rosa mayors suspended

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL Government has suspended Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon from holding office for one year and has recommended the same sanction on Sta. Rosa Mayor Jose Catindig Jr.

"As much as possible I do not want to suspend elected public officials because they have been elected into office by their constituents," Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said yesterday in a news conference.

The DILG was suspending Yaranon for a period of one year after Malacañang ruled with finality that he had committed grave misconduct, oppressive acts and abuse of authority in connection with his actions against a company engaged in the pay-parking business.

Puno said Yaranon would be serving two six-month suspension orders for issuing two directives in July 2004—days after he assumed office.

Yaranon ordered motorists not to pay parking fees to Jadewell Parking Systems Corp. and instructed the police to bar Jadewell from engaging in its pay parking business in Baguio City.

Vice Mayor Reinaldo Bautista would be taking over Yaranon's post in an acting capacity for the duration of the suspension order, which takes effect immediately.

In his directive, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the suspension orders on Yaranon should be served successively but not beyond June 30, 2007.

Catindig, on the other hand, was found guilty of ordering the illegal transfer of two employees of the city government of Sta. Rosa, Puno said.

BASTA TUBO i-MOLDEX MO!
sales@moldex.com.ph
373-1000 • 0918-8028888

The Answer to
Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)
may be with Fibre.

"Researchers say the best hope may be the most basic of treatments, lifestyle change and increase fiber intake". - Los Angeles Times

C-Lium® Fibre is made from 100% pure psyllium fibre. It helps eliminate constipation, promotes regular bowel movement and removes toxins from the colon and intestines. It is also a natural fat absorber which aids weight and blood sugar management.

ORIGINAL
C-Lium
FIBRE
For a healthier stomach
100% NATURAL FOOD SUPPLEMENT

C-Lium Fibre helps lower cholesterol levels which may reduce the risk of heart disease. C-Lium Fibre has no additives, no preservatives, no artificial colours, flavours or sweeteners. It is cholesterol, yeast and gluten free.

C-Lium® Fibre is Possibly the Best Food Fibre in the World.

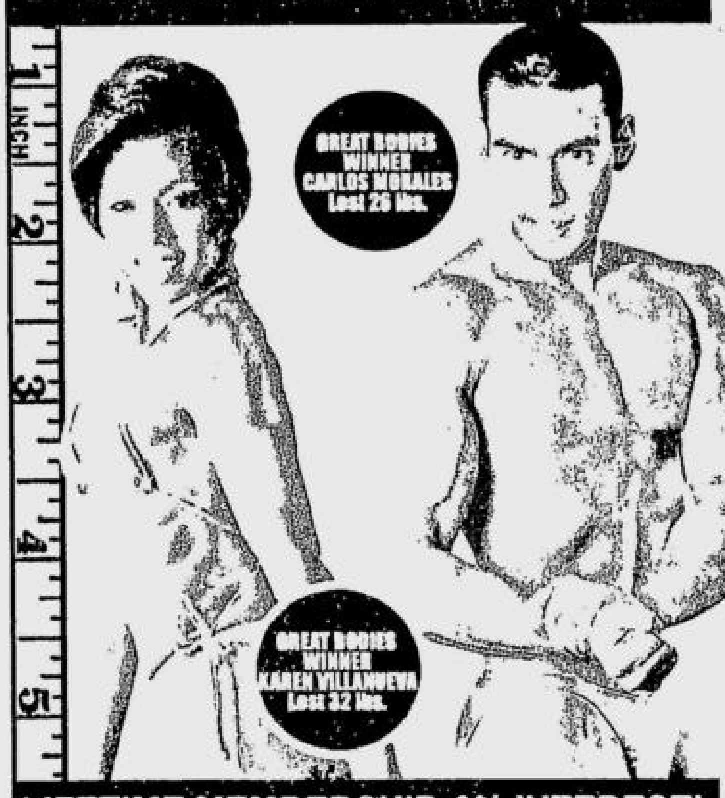
C-Lium® Fibre
For a healthier stomach

helps eliminate constipation
helps reduce weight
helps reduce cholesterol
helps reduce the risk of heart disease
helps control blood sugar
helps prevent sickness

AVAILABLE AT: mercury drug stores nationwide
DISTRIBUTED BY: PHILUSA CORPORATION TEL: 631-1731 to 39 Fax: 635-6510 to 11
OTHER REPUTABLE PHARMACIES & MAJOR SUPERMARKETS

TXT 4 INFO
Luzon: 09167410346
Visayas: 09102932635
Mindanao: 09212600228
www.cliumfibre.com

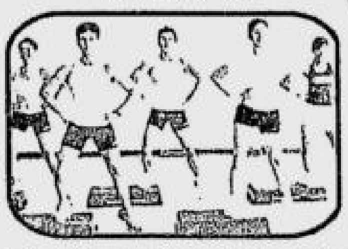
LOSE 16 INCHES IN 60 MINUTES AND ALL YOUR CELLULITES WITH BODY METRICS!!!


INCH
1
2
3
4
5
GREAT BODIES WINNER CARLOS MORALES Lost 26 lbs.
GREAT BODIES WINNER KAREN VILLANUEVA Lost 32 lbs.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. 0% INTEREST!
NO MONTHLY DUES! NO JOINING FEES!
FOR CALLERS TODAY.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #2787. Series of 2006.

PERSONAL TRAINING
FREE TRIAL!

ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS!



CALL US:
FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 536-3333
MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!!! FOR CALLERS TODAY.
on Fitness & Aerobics Programmes.
NO JOINING FEES!
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #2787. Series of 2006.

SAVE TODAY.
BUY 15 TREATMENT GET 5 FREE!!!

HOT MASQUE For firming and inch loss.
MESO REJUVENATION Skin renewed, reborn & refreshed!
BODY FORMER Lose 1,000 calories while you relax.
PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL At the lowest price in the Philippines.

Diamond Ultrapeel is Skin Resurfacing
Resurfacing is a wonderful alternative to laser or chemical peels because it is non-invasive, non-surgical & requires no down time after treatment.
- *Sun damaged skin*
- *Age spots*
- *Reduction of early aging fine lines*
- *Blending of cosmetic surgery or laser treatments*
- *Reduction of acne scarring*
- *Extraction of blackheads and whiteheads*
- *Minor scar revision*
- *Hyperpigmentation reduction*

Introducing ENDOSLIM
An effective way of shaping your body and reducing the appearance of cellulite. The gentle suction combined with the action of the motorized rollers lift and roll the skin, thereby stimulating the venous and lymphatic systems. As a result, toxins and abnormal fluid retention is eliminated from the body.

The latest technology in slimming & firming from Europe... MESOTHERAPY

ALABANG [illegible] BINONDO [illegible] CALOOCAN [illegible] CEBU [illegible] GREENHILLS [illegible] LEGASPI VILL. [illegible] MALATE [illegible] MEGAMALL [illegible] PASAY ROAD [illegible] PASIG [illegible] SM NORTH [illegible] [illegible]
SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420726/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3667863 GREENHILLS 7261526/09178261204 MALATE 5256601/09213173418
MEGAMALL 6377543/09182479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156693088 PASIG 6473816/09275341314

Junk Cha-cha petition …

From page A1

Lawyers for Civil Liberties (CLCL), the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc. represented by Rene Saguisag and the Alternative Law Groups (ALG).

Death certificate

In his own petition, lawyer Sixto Brillantes, counsel for defeated vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda, said he had obtained a death certificate showing that one of those who supposedly signed the Cha-cha initiative was a Makati resident named Dominador Tabirao who has been dead since July 2003.

Akbayan party-list representatives and University of the Philippines professor Randolf David, in their own countersuit, said Sigaw personnel were accompanied in gathering signatures by local officials "ostensibly upon the instruction of the Department of the Interior and Local Government."

"They went from house to house, using a combination of threats, cajolery and deception to gather signatures," they said.

'Stop PIG'

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. evaded questions on whether the poll body would dismiss the initiative petition outright.

"I don't want to preempt what would be the policy of Comelec. I am only one of them. Remember it's the en banc (the whole body) that would act on this," Abalos told reporters.

As he was coming out of his office, Abalos briefly met with Akbayan Representatives Loreta Ann Rosales, Mario Joyo Aguja and Ana Theresia Hontiveros-Baraquel, who were holding placards reading "Stop PIG (People's Initiative ni Gloria)."

Distinctions made

Abalos said the Comelec might issue a ruling when it tackles the petition either on Thursday or Friday.

"The receipt of these petitions is merely ministerial," he said. "Whether it will be given due process or not is for the en banc [to decide]."

In its 1997 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the Comelec was "permanently enjoined from entertaining or taking cognizance" of any petition for initiative on amendments until a sufficient law was enacted to implement the system.

Abalos said his and the other commissioners' earlier statements that they could not entertain the petition based on the Supreme Court ruling was not the same as the en banc instantly rejecting it.

The OneVoice petition was filed by the group's convenors Christian Monsod, lawyers Rene Azurin and Benjamin Tolosa Jr., Manuel Quezon III, Susan Ople and Carlos Medina Jr.

The opposing groups also said that the initiatives provided for under the law pertained only to amending provisions of the Constitution and not overhauling the Charter.

"The petition is violative of the Constitution … since it seeks a revision and not a mere amendment of the Constitution," OneVoice said.

OneVoice and most critics questioned the way the signatures were gathered and verified.

Done by one hand

The Constitution requires a people's initiative to be signed by 12 percent of all registered voters nationwide and 3 percent in every legislative district for it to be considered by the Comelec.

OneVoice presented a certification by lawyer Marlon Casquejo, election officer of Davao City, who said he had not verified the signatures of registered voters in the first, second and third districts of the city.

Brillantes presented a signature sheet from a precinct in Barangay Pio del Pilar in Makati City. The printed names, addresses and birthdays of the 10 registered voters in the sheet appeared to have been written by a single hand.

The ALG questioned whether the Cha-cha initiative really came about through the will of the people, saying the proposals would change the way the country has been governed for almost a hundred years.

Binay has 'proof'

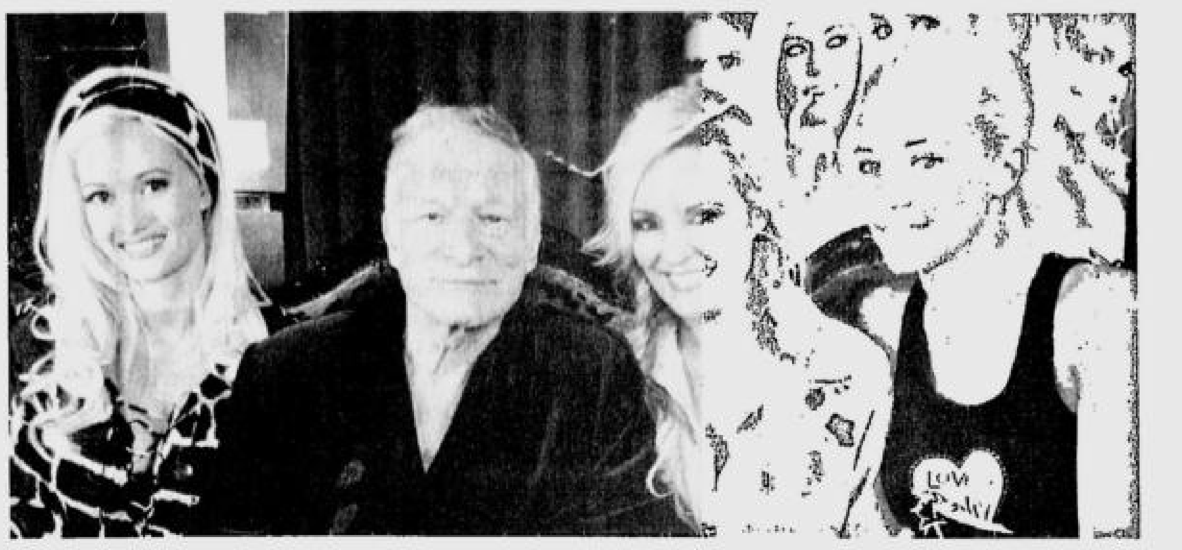
By TJ Burgonio

SIGNATURES OF DEAD people have turned up in the petition to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative, Sen. Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

He said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay would present at a Senate hearing today proof that the signatures of some of his deceased constituents had been included in the petition now before the Commission on Elections.

"Mayor Binay presented this morning proof that there are dead people who signed up—death certificates and pictures of the tombs—and they will be presented during the hearing at the Senate," Drilon said.

Falsification charges had been filed against the election registrar who verified the signatures, according to Drilon.



HUGH HEFNER, head of the adult media empire Playboy, poses with his three girlfriends (from left), Holly Madison, Bridget Marquardt and Kendra Wilkinson during an interview with journalists at his mansion in Los Angeles. AFP

Mr. Playboy feels young at 80—thanks to 3 women

From page A1

tributes his surprising vitality.

Receiving several French journalists at his extravagant mansion in Beverly Hills, Hefner is surrounded by the three women—Bridget Marquardt, 32, Holly Madison, 26, and Kendra Wilkinson, 21.

"Well, I think that relationships with young people keep me young," he points out. "I don't know if the sex is better than it was 20 years ago, but the life is a lot better."

"I've tried it and all the variations of the theme," Hefner admits, saying that at one point, he tried to maintain relationships with seven women at the same time.

Adapting to 21st century

"That became notorious and also had conflicts because the girls did not all get along with one another, so I decided to downsize and I wound up with three very special ladies," says the old man with playful eyes, wearing his trademark silk robe.

Hefner, or Hef as he is known to his most intimate friends, became a millionaire by selling to America and then the entire world his glamour magazine since 1953. Now, he has adapted himself to the 21st century.

His life is at the center of a reality TV show, "The Girls of Playboy," that starts its second season in the United States next month and is available in some international markets.

"Hef is captivating," summarizes Holly, a platinum blonde just like Kendra and Bridget. She says that their life together, seen as scandalous by conservative Americans, is perfect. "This is a real relationship, a real family."

The young woman, who came to this California mansion from the frozen tundra of Alaska, has a little bunny rabbit—a symbol of Playboy—tattooed on her lower back.

Hefner says she is now his favorite girl. "Holly and I will probably be together the rest of my life."

But despite being first concubine, Holly complains about not having a place to call her own.

"I am jealous right now because Bridget and Kendra have huge bedrooms," laments Holly. "That they will decorate, however they want."

Oldest of trio

Bridget, the oldest of the three, hails from rural California and comes off as carefree and frivolous, while the young Kendra, a native of San Diego, enjoys parties and likes to take advantage of the good things in life.

Dressed in cut-off shorts, cowboy boots and a pink checkered shirt, Bridget could be a good candidate to play a part in an erotic version of "Little House on the Prairie."

Kendra appears more athletic, clad in low-cut jeans and a tight blouse that brings forth her voluptuous chest.

"It is unbelievable! Even in my dreams I did not imagine I would live like this!" the girl giggles, laughing about everything all the time.

All three women speak with awe about Hef, singing praises to the intelligence of the man who allows them to lead a life of leisure in a jacuzzi or swimming pool, a limousine or his private jet.

Sad in marriage

"Marriage works for some people, not for others," argues Hefner, striking a philosophical note. "I was married twice and was faithful. But I must confess that wasn't the happiest and most productive time of my life. I find something sad in marriage after a while, when the romance and passion is gone."

"I feel younger than I did 10-15 years ago," adds Hefner, who takes credit for helping launch the career of Marilyn Monroe by placing her on the cover of the first Playboy.

And he is not about to retire. "My mother lived to 101," he points out. *AFP*

ATTENTION LAWYERS!

Pursuant to Bar Matter 850, non-compliance with the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirement shall be a cause for listing a lawyer as a delinquent member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and consequently, he shall not be permitted to practice law.

Notices of non-compliance for the first compliance period of the MCLE are now being sent out by the MCLE committee.

The deadline for the second compliance period of the MCLE is fast approaching.

Legis Forum, Inc. an accredited MCLE provider, shall conduct a full 36-unit MCLE course in MAKATI CITY on September 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2006.

Credits earned can be credited to either the first or second compliance period.

Avoid being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and consequently, not permitted to practice law! **REGISTER NOW!**

For inquiries, please call: **(632) 886-7868; 844-3871; 844-3819; 844-3906** Call or send SMS at: **0917-8574978 or 0917-8574988** Or you may log on to: **www.legisforum.com** & register online

Our Venue, is conveniently located at the **Tiara Oriental Hotel**, Malugay corner Talisay Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City

Attendees shall be provided with: meals (a.m./p.m. snacks & lunch), free-flowing coffee/tea, seminar (computer) bag, seminar kit, lecture materials, certificates of attendance.

Legis Forum, Inc.
8th Floor Chatham House, 116 Valero cor.
Herrera Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City

LOCATION #1
U/12 La Fuerza Plaza,
2241 Pasong Tamo St.
(Between EDSA and Pasay Road) Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 894-37-97 / 812-16-78

7 Flags
TINT SPECIALIST
A Notch Above The Rest

LOCATION #2
Y, Square Bldg.,
7280 Malugay St., cor. Mayapis,
San Antonio Village, Makati City
OPENING AUGUST 31

TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS ON JAPAN TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS TINTS

1,990.00
for Sedans
+ 400 for Revo / Pajero / Starex …
+ 700 for Expedition / Suburban …
WITH 3 YEARS WARRANTY
Maximum Solar Protection + + +
Choose from over 30 tints on our State-of-the-Art Tint Tester
Clear & Specialty Safety Films
All Major Brands Available at 20% Off
Official Tinters of Major European and Imported Cars
No Extra Charge for Aircon Tint Room

WE INSTALL TINTS FOR AUTO, BUILDINGS, BANKS, HOMES, MALLS, OFFICES, RESTAURANTS…
Hot Line Tel. Nos.: 894-37-97 / 812-16-78

H.I.D.
P 11,900.00 up
XENON LIGHTING
*HELLA BALLAST SYSTEM
ISO 9001
Made for all Vehicle Types
3 Models to choose from
12 to 24 Months Warranty
FREE HELLA LASER Alignment

ALARM
P 3,990.00
Advanced Vehicle Remote Engine Starter & Security System
- Remote engine start
- Remote door lock/unlock
- Silent arm/disarm
- Automatic rearming
- Remote trunk release
- *Super bright BLUE LED indicator
- *High sensitivity two-stage shock sensor

ALARMS, BULBS, H.I.D. HORNS, WIPERS & MORE

Kiefer, '24' TV series lead Emmy …

From page A1

won his third acting trophy for "Monk" and departed series "Will & Grace," "The West Wing" and "Huff" earned bittersweet toasts.

Winning didn't take the sting out of cancellation for at least one star.

"I guess I have to thank Showtime [cable channel], even though they canceled us," said Blythe Danner, named Best Supporting Actress in a Drama for "Huff."

Megan Mullally was honored for her supporting actress work in the sitcom "Will & Grace," which wrapped up its 8-year run.

Alan Alda was named Best Supporting Actor in a Drama for his role as a Republican presidential candidate on "The West Wing," canceled after seven seasons. Alda wasn't on hand to accept the award. He had a previous Emmy bid for "West Wing," which he did not win.

Alda's victory on Sunday was the 26th Emmy for the White House drama, a record in the drama series category. "West Wing" had been tied with "Hill Street Blues" and "LA Law" with 25.

Jeremy Piven of new HBO series "Entourage" was named Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series.

Comedy bit

The ceremony opened with a filmed comedy bit in which O'Brien was seen sipping champagne aboard a jetliner. "What could possibly go wrong tonight?" he says—and then the plane crashes onto an island resembling the one in ABC's "Lost."

After being greeted by "Lost" star Jorge Garcia, O'Brien fled through a mysterious hatch and ended up crashing through other series including "The Office," "24" and "House."

"Subject could be anemic, possibly albino," was the diagnosis of "House" star Hugh Laurie.

The jetliner sequence prompted criticism that it was in bad taste following the commuter jet crash earlier Sunday in Lexington, Kentucky, that killed 49 people. Emmy show executive producer Ken Ehrlich had no comment when told about it.

The ceremony honored producer/host Dick Clark of "American Bandstand" fame, who has been recovering from a stroke he suffered in 2004.

"I have accomplished my childhood dream, to be in show business. Everybody should be so lucky, to have their dreams come true. I've been truly blessed," said Clark, his speech somewhat strained. He was seated at a podium on stage when he was introduced by "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell.

Barry Manilow serenaded Clark with the show's bouncy theme song before collecting his own Emmy for the special "Barry Manilow: Music and Passion."

Running gag

Aaron Spelling, the prolific producer who died in June at 83, was paid a tearful tribute by his former stars, including Jaclyn Smith, Farrah Fawcett and Kate Jackson of "Charlie's Angels" and Joan Collins and Heather Locklear of "Dynasty."

Throughout the ceremony, veteran comedian and TV star Bob Newhart popped up intermittently for O'Brien's running gag.

"The show has rarely has come in on time. Why? Because there's no real consequences," O'Brien said as Newhart was wheeled onstage in what Conan warned was an airtight container with just enough oxygen for three, the ceremony's scheduled running time.

"It's very simple. If the Emmys run one second over, Bob Newhart dies," O'Brien said. "So keep those speeches short, ladies and gentlemen. Bob Newhart's life in your hands."

"The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," the satirical newscast, reaped two Emmys, for Best Variety, Music or Comedy and the writing award for that category.

Stewart cracked, "I think this year you actually made a terrible mistake. But thank you."

"American Idol," the blockbuster TV talent show, lost again in the reality-competition category as "The Amazing Race" picked up its fourth award.

Stephen Colbert of "The Colbert Report," presenting the reality award, took the opportunity to vent about being eclipsed by Manilow's special in the variety, music or comedy program category.

"I lost to Barry Manilow … I lost to the Copacabana," wailed Colbert.

Kelly Macdonald was named Best Supporting Actress in a Movie or Miniseries for "The Girl in the Cafe" (the drama also was named Best Made-for-TV Movie.)

HBO emerged with the most Emmys—26, including the awards given out at last week's creative arts ceremony for technical and other achievements.

NBC, struggling in the ratings, got a shot in the arm with its cumulative 14 awards, the most for any broadcast network.

ABC won 11 Emmys, while Fox and CBS picked up 10 each, followed by PBS with nine.

A white tent outside the back door of the Shrine Auditorium was the scene of nearly as much Emmy action. After accepting their stand-in trophies on stage, the winners paraded past a table under the tent and collected their real statuettes.

Many lingered to smoke, hang out with friends, collect autographs, snap pictures and even shed a few tears before heading through a set of blue curtains into an adjacent room to field questions from the assembled media.

"All the blood rushed out of my head," Tony Shalhoub confessed. "I felt like I should be watching someone else get it."

By the end of the night, the tent was packed with winners and presenters. Actors in drama shows hugged members of comedy casts. Writers from "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" mixed it up with the staff of the reality show, "The Amazing Race." *AP*

MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC.
MARKETING AND SALES TRAINING PROGRAMS

HOW TO SET-UP A DISTRIBUTION NETWORK
SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2006
Learn in clear and practical approach, detailed procedures in setting up a distributor network from designing a distributor selection criteria up to initial performance evaluation of the new distributor.

FROM SELLING TO MANAGING
SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2006
This intensive two-day seminar addresses the difficulties inherent in moving up from selling to managing, and will give the newly appointed sales supervisor and manager the skills needed to be a success!

NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES AND SECRETS
SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2006
Learn to negotiate like a pro! Don't just know the tactics, formulate an indispensable negotiation strategy and remove profit leaks of your company. Understand how negotiation really works!

Seminars are held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.
For complete 2006 schedule of seminars, fees, course outlines, group discounts and other inquiries, please visit our website at www.mansmith.net, email at info@mansmith.net, text 0920-9223732 or call Alice Torres at telefax nos. (02) 722-2318 / 727-7142.

MANSMITH
MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC.
Helping your marketing and sales teams soar!
#14 Ilang-ilang St., GF Waters Center, New Manila, Quezon City 1112 Telefax Nos. (632) 722-2318 / 727-7142
Official Print Media Partners: BusinessWorld www.bworldonline.com INQUIRER

Japanese nationals top list of aliens barred from entering RP

By Leila B. Salaverria

AS IN THE PAST, JAPANESE NAtionals topped the list of aliens barred from entering the Philippines during the first six months of the year, the Bureau of Immigration said yesterday.

A total of 797 foreigners were not allowed to enter the country from January to June because they were undesirable aliens or they were carrying tampered travel documents, Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said in a statement.

Topping the list were 222 Japanese nationals who were refused entry on suspicion that were Yakuza members (Japanese gangsters), and could be involved in illegal activities.

Also barred from entry were 99 Chinese nationals, 75 Koreans, 55 Indians, 28 Taiwanese and nine Americans.

These foreigners are now in the BI's blacklist, which means they will no longer be able to return to the Philippines.

The number of excluded aliens increased by 115 in the first half of the year compared to 685 in the same period in 2005.

Fernandez attributed the increase to the bureau's intensified campaign against human smuggling and international terrorists, and the adoption of stricter procedures in screening arriving and departing passengers.

The barred aliens included blacklisted foreigners and former deportees who had again attempted to enter the country using tampered passports and fake visas.

Ninety-five percent of the aliens were intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The rest were stopped in Mactan, Subic, Zamboanga, Davao, Clark and Laoag, said BI regulation chief Gary Mendoza.

The excluded foreigners were booked on the first available flight back to their port of origin.

Presidential Electoral Tribunal nixes de Castro bid to delay trial

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SUPREME COURT, SITTING AS THE Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), yesterday rejected Vice President Noli de Castro's motion seeking a one-month delay in the start of the trial of the election cheating case filed by former Sen. Loren Legarda.

The PET instead, through its hearing commissioner, former Supreme Court Justice Bernardo Pardo, set for Sept. 4 the first hearing and presentation of evidence in the case.

Earlier, De Castro had asked the PET to replace Pardo with an incumbent justice, a petition the PET likewise denied.

Legarda welcomed the PET's decisions, calling them a "double black-eye" on De Castro whom she accused of massive cheating in the 2004 vice presidential election.

She said she would now have a chance to prove that she was cheated of victory with documentary evidence that includes spurious election returns (ERs).

The first part of her protest covers the votes in Lanao del Sur and Cebu, where 60 percent of the ballots cast were set aside by the PET "for being obvious fakes" for having similar penmanship and lacking security features.

Legarda also claimed the ERs from Lanao del Sur, which were in the custody of Congress, were substituted with crude forgeries, which she said was obvious when they were compared to the ER copies of the Commission on Elections and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

Legarda also said witnesses had come out to reveal a break-in at the House of Representatives in January 2005 during which the ERs were supposedly substituted with fakes to conform with the "altered" statements of votes and certificates of canvass (COCs) read out in Congress during the canvassing of votes for president and vice president in May and June 2004.

In the Congress tally for Cebu, De Castro had garnered 886,910 votes over Legarda's 198,372 votes.

Legarda's lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, said he would present manufactured ballots and returns that would overturn some 300,000 votes in Cebu alone and 40,000 votes in Lanao del Sur.

In the nationwide tally, De Castro registered a total of 15,100,431 votes while Legarda got 14,218,709 votes.

Motivational guru to address meeting of 12,000 teachers

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SOUGHT-AFter speakers will be in Manila on Sept. 9, 2006 to speak before some 12,000 educators expected to attend "A Tribute to Teachers" at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

Dr. Denis Waitley, a best-selling American author and motivational expert, was invited to help motivate teachers to continue teaching and serve as an inspiration to their students.

Waitley has counseled winners in every field, from Apollo astronauts to Superbowl champions, from sales achievers to government leaders and youth groups.

He is also the most-listened- to voice on personal and career success, having sold more than 10 million audio programs in 14 languages. His audio album, "The Psychology of Winning," is the all-time best selling program on self-mastery.

According to USA Today, "Denis Waitley's motivation is more than money. His mission is to tell people they have more control over their destiny than they believe."

Waitley has written 12 non-fiction books, including several international best sellers, 'Being the Best,' 'The Winner's Edge,' 'The Joy of Working,' and 'Empires of the Mind.' His latest work, the 'Seed of Greatness' is an interactive value-based family leadership program that teaches what every leader needs to teach and every child needs to learn.

"A Tribute to Teachers" is the largest and most anticipated annual gathering of teachers, school principals and administrators in the country. The event is organized by Bato Balani Foundation and Diwa Learning Systems, the country's leading educational publisher. The tribute is supported by Pizza Hut and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

To know details on the event, log on to www.diwa.ph. For event sponsorship, contact Salt and Light Ventures at 813-2732 to 03.

CCTV SECURITY SYSTEM
FOR ONLY! P28,000.00 PROMO PACKAGE
• 4 COLORED DOME CAMERA
• 1 DIGITAL RECORDER (STAND ALONE) W/ 80 GB HARD DRIVE
• 100 FT. RG-6 COAXIAL CABLES
• 1 SET CAMERA BRACKET AND ACCESSORIES
PROMO PACKAGE P9,500
• 4 COLORED DOME CAMERA
• 1 AUDIO/ VIDEO SWITCHER
PABX
TELEPHONE PABX SYSTEM
PANASONIC BRAND
CAP. 3 COLINES, 8 LOCALS EXPANDABLE UP TO 24
P16,500.00 FREE EIGHT(8) UNITS
ACTEL COMMUNICATION TRADING
254 MC ARTHUR HIGHWAY, KARUHATAN VAL. CITY
Email Ad.: edward-actel@yahoo.com
Tel. Nos.: 292-2322/ 446-3034

Distinguished firms & homes should have TENTHAUS covering needs for they get value for their money... peso for peso.
All types of tents... event / party tents, warehouse tents, car tents, camping tents; roll-up / roll-down & fixed awnings & canopies. Also available: Futuristic playground equipment.
SALES • RENTALS 872-3788 872-9067 922-0432 874-6352 874-5437 Fax: 872-2332
E-mail: tenthaus888@yahoo.com.ph
tenthaus
2/F 279 Alabang-Zapote Road, (atop Equitable PCI Bank)

idec®
AIRCONDITION
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000, 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Mounted 3hp-P39,500
Free Installation!
Call:243-2610,241-4731,(0919)2482183
Available at: MC Home Depot / Fort & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821

TheraBreath Kit System
A sure cure to Bad Breath. Therabreath™ removes harmful bacteria that caused Bad Breath, gum disease, tooth decay and related problem of bitter/ sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.
GET A BABY'S BREATH WITH THERABREATH™
Free use of Hallmeter for monitoring bad breath condition.
Money back Guarantee
Will refund money if no good results within 7 days treatment
Call free delivery w/in Metro Manila
890-8380 ; 895-5532
897-2460 ; 895-6775
09177965859 ; 09202267717

Short and Long Term
AIRCON RENTAL
AIRCON (up to 200 TONNER)
INDUSTRIAL FANS • WIRE • WATER PUMP • LIGHTS
www.airconrental.com custcare@airconrental.com
2840 Zamora St., Pasay City
phone: +63.2.5110277 • mobile: +63.917.5410400

WILSON
WET & DRY
HEAVY- DUTY POLISHER
We've cleaned the floors of the most prestigious buildings, first class hotels, famous restaurants, biggest malls, well-known hospitals, reputable schools & universities, public and private offices, churches and chapels, mansions, bungalows, apartments and homes...
...built to last
Over 20 years of unmatched Durability
AVAILABLE MODELS
8" (203) 10" (254) 13" (330) 16" (406)
OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES
Brush, Pad Holder, Polishing Pad, Scrubbing Pad & Stripping Pad
Distributed by
ASTECH PENGSON
MANILA TEL NO. 634-6361 to 59
CEBU TELEFAX (032) 344-9185
DAVAO TELEFAX (082) 221-0585

GENERICS
WHOLESALE PRICES AS OF JULY 24, 2006
www.CNN-generics.com

Amoxicillin Cap 500 mg -100's	134.00
Ascorbic Acid Tab 500 mg -100's	55.00
Carbocisteine Cap 500 mg -100's	89.00
Cephalexin Cap 500 mg -100's	224.00
Ciprofloxacin Tab 500 mg -100's	245.00
Co-Trimox Tab 400/80 mg -100's	62.00
Health Mat (Portable 74"x26")	55,000.00
Multi-Vitamin Cap -100's	86.00
Multivitamin Syrup 60 ml	14.20
Paracetamol Tab 500 mg -100's	28.00
Salbutamol Tab 2 mg -100's	19.00
Silymarine Cap 125mg (France) -50's	580.00
Vitamin B-Complex Tab -100's	58.00

Above prices applicable for drugstores, distribution, companies & orgs only.
more than 400 products
CNN GENERICS DISTRIBUTION, INC
2nd Fl. 459 Quezon Ave. Q.C. FAX 410-5716

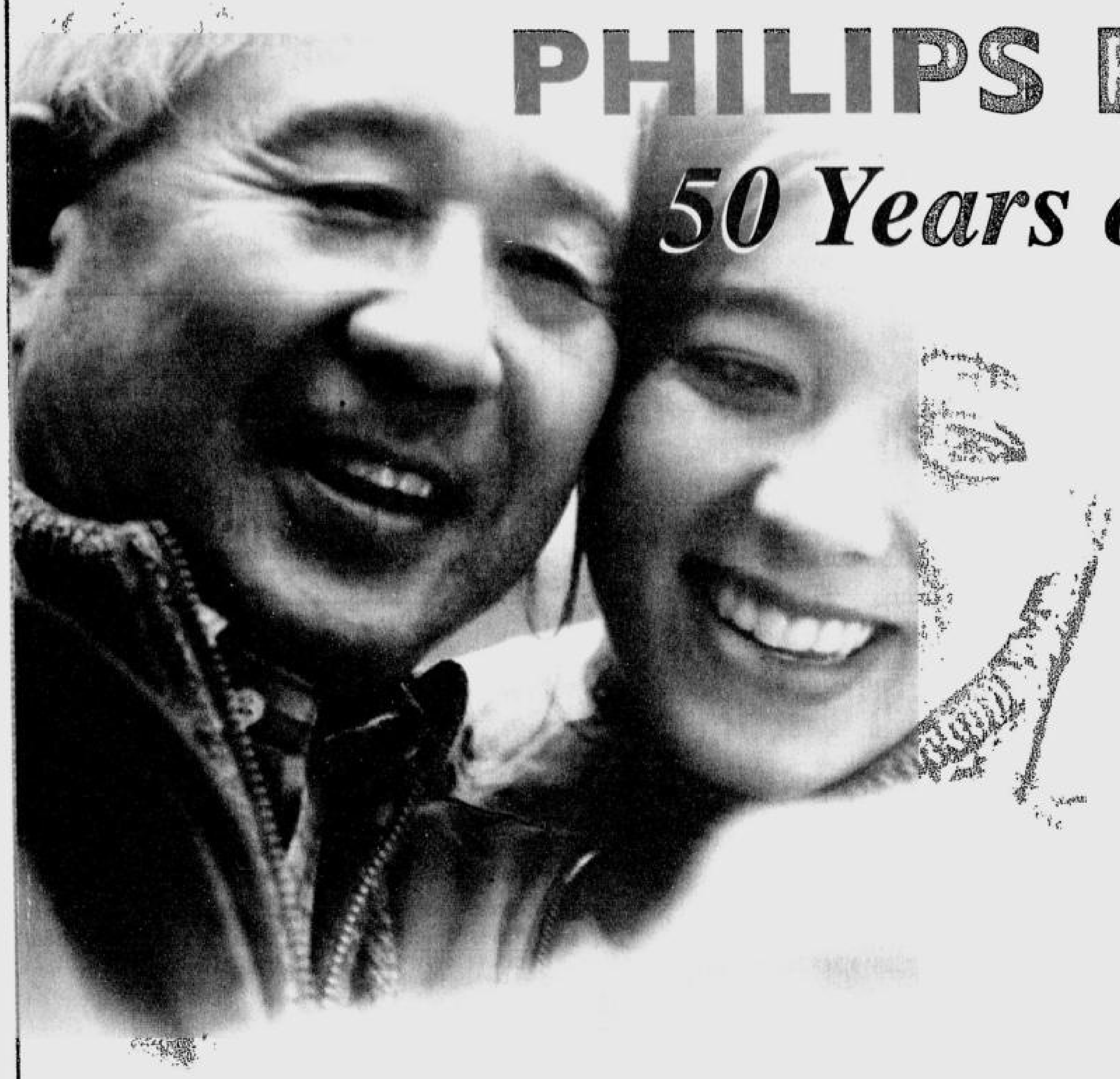
Widest Selection of Industrial Cleaning Equipment
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Now Only P39,500
INDUSTRIAL SWEEPERS
Sweeper Star 2000H Lion 8000 ME Lion 9000 M
P3,500
Commando 707
1500 PSI/2.5 HP
High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
INDUSTRIAL SCRUBBERS
BT 9500 BT 450 Lavamatic E 350 N II
HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
TRX Optima WH 3517E WH 2119
INDUSTRIAL VACUUM CLEANERS
Nevada
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MANILA: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
Q.C. 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

PROtech
CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL ISO 9001: 2000
FIRE RESISTING SAFE
LORD BURGLAR & FIRE RESISTING SAFE
• Protects documents, computer printouts and other valuable items against fire
• One keylock and one combination lock
• Designed to resist oxy-acetylene and other penetrating tools
• Relocking device deterrent burglary
• One keylock and one combination lock
DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.
PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Physical Security Equipment
www.protech.com.ph
HEAD OFFICE:
2643-U Taft Ave., Pasay City, MM
Tel. Nos.: 833-3622 • 833-1246
831-0848 • 551-4809 • 551-7869
Fax No. (632) 831-2961
E-mail: protech@philonline.com
CEBU OFFICE:
Escano St. cor. Don Mariano Cui St., Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 255-6384
Telefax: (032) 254-6301
E-mail: protechc@mozcom.com
DAVAO OFFICE:
Unit-C Atty. Fanlo Compound Padre Gomez St., Davao City
Tel. No.: (082) 221-5021
E-mail: protechd@mozcom.com

Kellogg–HKUST Executive MBA
The best of both worlds
Information Sessions in 2006:
Manila
September 13 (Wednesday)
Makati Shangri-La Manila Hotel
Singapore
September 11 (Monday)
The Fullerton Singapore
Bangkok
September 12 (Tuesday)
Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok
Taipei
September 14 (Thursday)
Far Eastern Plaza Hotel
Hong Kong
September 19 (Tuesday)
Pacific Place Conference Center
Shenzhen
September 20 (Wednesday)
Crowne Plaza Shenzhen
As a partnership between two leading universities, the Kellogg–HKUST Executive MBA program provides the best executive education that Asia and the US can offer.
Recently ranked No.2 in the world by the Financial Times.
To find out more about this premium program, visit: www.bm.ust.hk/emba or attend one of the information sessions.
Tel: (852) 2358 4180 Email: emba@ust.hk
Kellogg–HKUST Executive MBA
Kellogg HKUST BUSINESS SCHOOL

PHILIPS PHILIPPI

50 Years of Touching



"At Philips Philippines, we are passionatel
for you is what we do. We have been doin
entrepreneurs who proved it was possible

Philips established a corporate presence in t
with the opening of Philips Electronics an
partnership with the Filipino people dates
launched local sales of lighting and shor

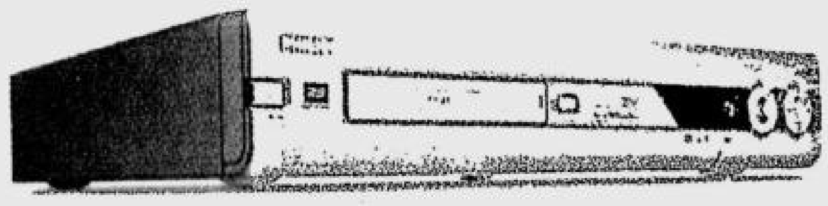
Philips has grown today to become one
respected business organizations in the count
encompasses lighting, consumer electronic
and personal care, medical systems and

Better healthcare

A global leader in X-ray, ultrasound, computed tomography (CT) scanning and magnetic resonance imaging, Philips Medical Systems creates best-in-class technologies that translate into faster and more accurate diagnosis and treatment. It is also pioneering a new category of healthcare products that respond to Filipino people's desire to take a more active role in managing their health. Its new patient-focused healthcare products include an easy-to-use life-saving home defibrillator.

HEARTSTART

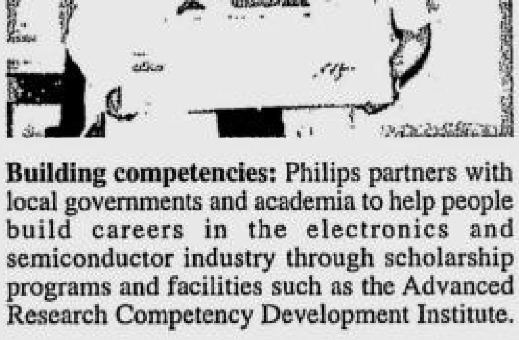
Advanced technology



Touching the lives of Filipinos around the country

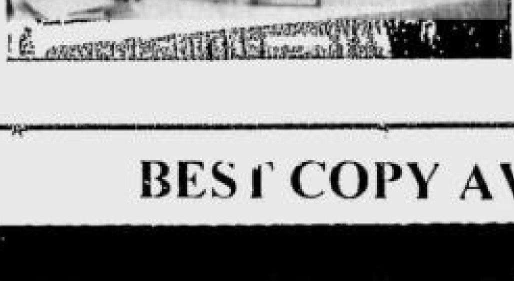
"Over the years, Philips has proven that social and environmentally sound behaviour makes good business sense. Sustainability is the principle that drives the company. In the Philippines this is manifest in Philips' partnership programs in the areas of education, healthcare and poverty alleviation. We see these as valuable social investments that have the power to transform lives, especially among the underprivileged."

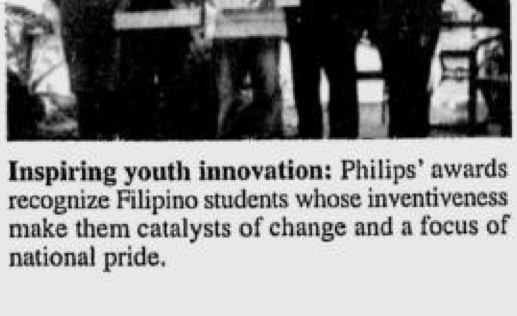
Med Mateo
President and CEO
Philips Philippines



Building competencies: Philips partners with local governments and academia to help people build careers in the electronics and semiconductor industry through scholarship programs and facilities such as the Advanced Research Competency Development Institute.

Promoting computer literacy: Under its "Partnership in Computer Education" program, Philips Semiconductors donates computer equipment and facilities and provides teacher training to promote computing in public elementary schools.


NOVER CEREMONY of COMPUTER DONATION
PHILIPS Semiconductors Phils Inc
SEPT 22 2005



Inspiring youth innovation: Philips' awards recognize Filipino students whose inventiveness make them catalysts of change and a focus of national pride.

Upgrading healthcar
Systems' ORET proj
of unequal access to h
Filipinos in the provin
medical equipment,
specialist government
class standards.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NES

Lives Everyday, Everywhere

committed to helping improve your life. Creating innovative products that are meaningful this for 50 years here in the tradition of our founders Gerard and Anton Philips – o succeed in business while increasing people's quality of life."

Med Mateo
President and CEO
Philips Philippines

ıc Philippines in 1956
Lighting, Inc. but its
back to 1920 when it
wave radio products.

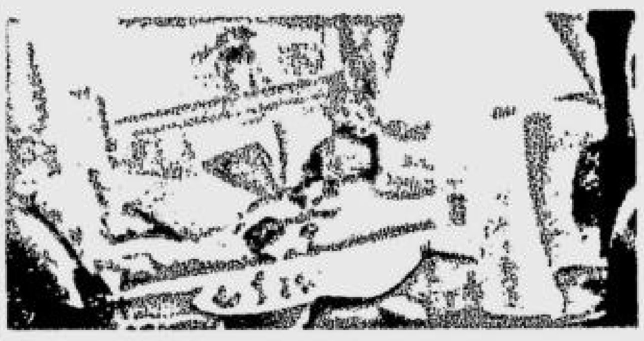
the largest and most
y. Its product portfolio
, domestic appliances
semiconductors. Its

marketing and distribution networks span the archipelago. And it has never lost sight of its inspiration: a desire to touch and improve the quality of people's lives with meaningful technological innovations.

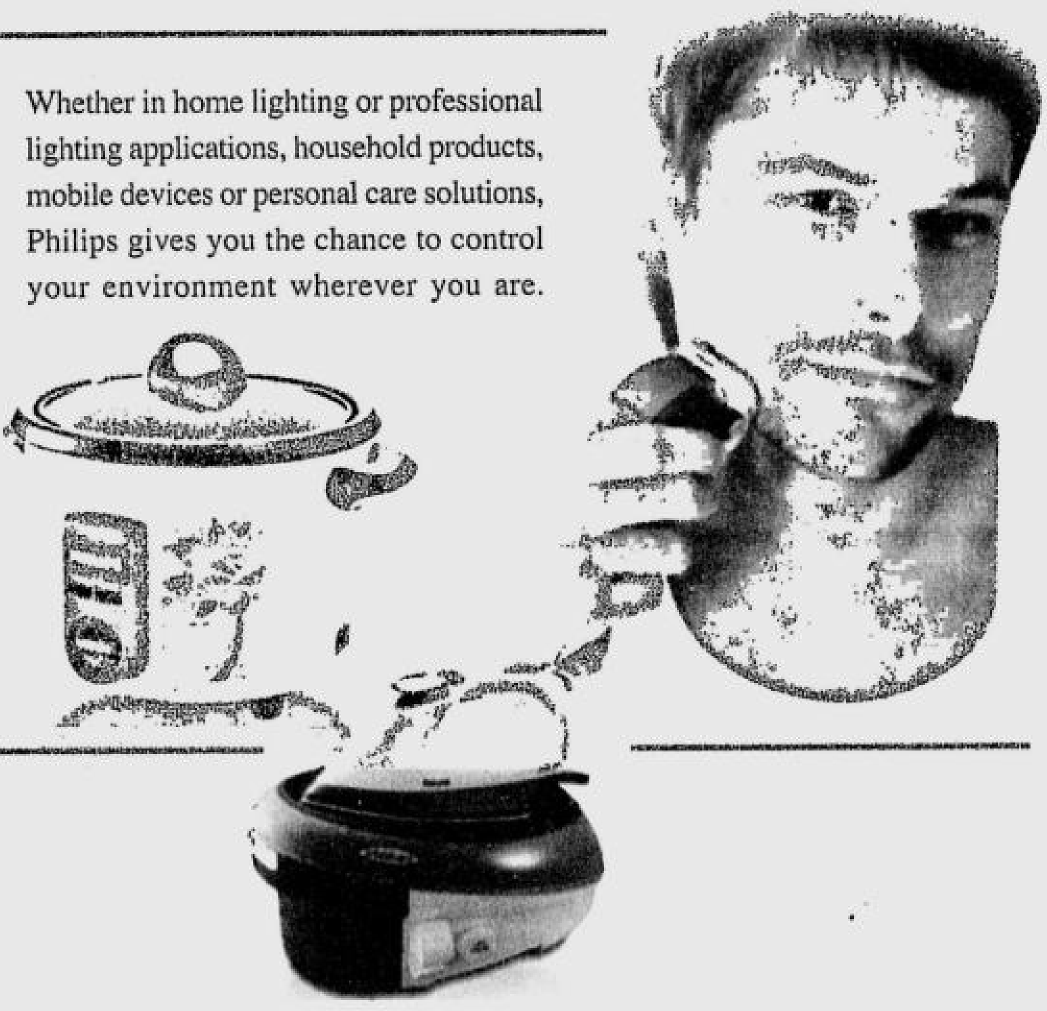
Today, Philips is focused firmly on the areas of Healthcare, Lifestyle and Technology. It aims to bring 'Sense and Simplicity' to Filipino consumers with advanced, easy-to-use products that are designed to genuinely meet their needs – everyday and everywhere.

Improved lifestyle

Philips envisions a world where technology enables you to explore freely and create richer, less complex experiences for yourself. For Philips, it's your experiences that matter.



Whether in home lighting or professional lighting applications, household products, mobile devices or personal care solutions, Philips gives you the chance to control your environment wherever you are.



Philips' mission is to develop meaningful technology that improves people's lives and so it never creates technology for technology's sake. Its products are focused around you and designed to enhance every moment of your life at home and away from home.

services: Philips Medical
t addresses the problem
lthcare, especially among
es. It involves upgrading
cilities and skills to help
hospitals achieve world-

Bringing hope to communities: Philips partnered with Gawad Kalinga to build a 100-unit GK Philips Village in Calamba, Laguna to provide education and livelihood opportunities and health services to the community. Through its "Light is Hope" project, Philips brings energy efficient lighting solutions to other GK villages. Brookside in Quezon City, Baseco in Tondo, and Kawal Kalinga in Nueva Ecija have so far benefited from this ongoing initiative.

"Light is Hope."
PHILIPS

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 21 No. 262
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
OPINION
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000
•100% soy ink•

Polluters pay

EDITORIAL

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE WORST OIL spill disaster to hit the country is now engaging the attention of government and private agencies as well as foreign organizations. And well that it should, because it is affecting the lives of tens of thousands of people and damaging extensive areas of sea and land. Its effects could last well beyond the present decade.

The first concern, of course, is to contain the oil spill to prevent it from causing more damage than it has already done. The second is to give aid to the tens of thousands of people whose livelihood has been affected by the pollution of the sea in which they fish and of the land on which they plant. The third is to pinpoint responsibility for the sea disaster and penalize the guilty parties. And the fourth is to pass laws and lay down guidelines to prevent a repetition of the disaster and mitigate the damage caused by similar accidents.

On the third point, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has said that Petron Corp. could be legally responsible for the massive oil spill off Guimaras Island. He likened the oil spill to the Philsports (formerly Ultra) arena stampede during the staging of the "Wowowee" show last Feb. 4.

Petron has said that "technically, the liability for the oil spill damage rests with the ship owner." It also said it felt it had a moral responsibility to give aid to the affected communities.

It should be impressed upon Petron that it has a legal, and not just a moral, responsibility to make restitution for the damage that the oil spill is causing. Petron should be reminded of the internationally accepted principle that "the polluter pays." The principle is that a company that causes pollution should pay for the cost of removing it, or provide compensation to those that have been affected by it.

The principle has received strong support in most of the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Community. In 1989 the Council of the OECD approved the Guiding Principles Relating to Accidèntal Pollution. One if its provisions says: "In most instances and notwithstanding issues concerning the origin of the accident, the cost of such reasonable measures taken by the authorities is initially borne by the operator for administrative convenience or for other reasons. When a third party is liable for the accident, that party reimburses to the operator the cost of reasonable measures to control accidental pollution taken after an accident."

Petron could cite this provision in asking Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., which owns the 998-ton tanker carrying Petron bunker oil that sank, to reimburse the cost of the control measures that it and the government are taking.

Petron and Sunshine Maritime should also be reminded of the Water Quality Act (RA No. 9275) which provides, among other things, that any person who pollutes bodies of water shall be responsible for containing, removing and cleaning up any pollution at his own expense. If the cleanup is done by the government, the expenses shall be reimbursed by the polluter.

One question that keeps cropping up is why Petron agreed to the use of a single-hull tanker to transport its bunker oil when international rules require the use of double-hull tankers for such a cargo. Amendments to the Annex 1 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (Marpol) brought in the "double hull" requirement for tankers. Surely, Petron, which has been transporting millions, if not billions of liters of fuel oils, knows about this international requirement. Did Petron, which made a net profit of P6.1 billion last year, pinch pennies at the risk of environmental pollution?

Meanwhile, it is encouraging to note that the Guimaras oil spill disaster has spurred government to draw up policy guidelines for all ships plying the country to avoid a repeat of the accident. One thing that should be given urgent attention is the measure filed by Sen. Richard Gordon that would require the use of double hulls in all sea vessels in the country.

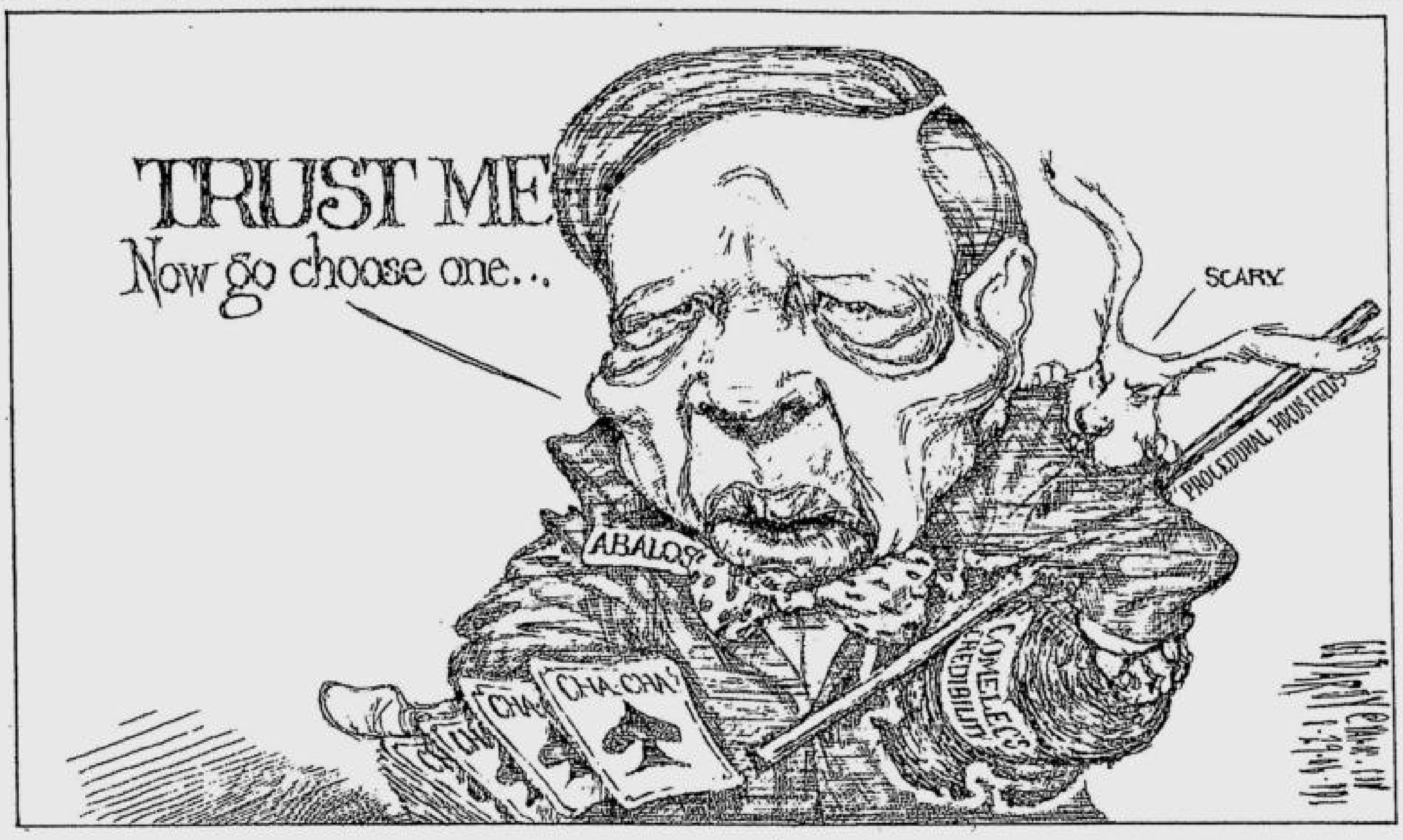
Other measures will have to be taken to prevent a repetition of the oil spill that so far has affected the livelihood of 26 villages in Guimaras, damaged nearly 16 square kilometers of coral reefs, 314 hectares of mangroves and 58 hectares of seaweeds. The laws to be passed and the rules to be laid down should make polluters pay—and pay heavily—so that they will be more conscious of the need to protect the environment.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **David O. Valdes**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Sandy Simon R. Yap**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Auditors and jargon

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

TO FOSTER "TRANSPARENCY," THE COMMISSION on Audit is publishing summaries of its annual reports in the papers. This is an overdue but welcome move. *"Cuentas claras conservan amistad,"* my grandmother used to say. Clear accounts preserves friendships.

The COA issues yearly a six volume report, two each for the national government, government owned or controlled corporations and local governments. Mostly, these are stashed away unread. The technical jargon puts off many.

A pity. Because financial data can strip away the propaganda. "You want a story?" Magsaysay Journalism Awardee Amitabha Chowdhury would ask young reporters. "Follow the smell of money." And they reaped a bumper harvest of documented exposés in Calcutta.

Here, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism reporters stitched raw data into readable reports of significance. These toppled President Joseph Estrada.

Data are data. They stay inert until their meaning and consequences are explained. Whose job is that? The COA must learn, as Thoreau suggested, to "simplify, simplify, simplify." But that's also the task of civil society, business groups academicians—and the press.

The Constitution vests in media freedoms granted no one else. In exchange, the media have the role of communicating what is significant. Spot stories, even with data, mean little. What do the figures mean for people now? And what lies beyond the horizons? media must ask. This is essential because many "leaders" act as if they have no grandchildren.

This year's COA ad reports that Cebu City's debts towered, at P5.95 billion, over those of 116 other cities. It is P2.43 billion more than Makati's, the country's financial center. Although Manila's income is 4.9 times larger than Cebu's, its debt is P2.3 billion less. Why?

Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña silenced questions as IOUs from Japan for his South Reclamation Project piled up over the years, Cebu media explained. City Hall used fictitious exchange rates to downplay the debt implosion from serial devaluation—until the COA blew the whistle. It found out that the debt burden on Cebuano taxpayers is the highest in the country. And they'll be paying until 2025—when someone else will be mayor.

Reporting on significance is a service open to community papers, circulating in 78 other provinces, on COA data for their areas. Pangasinan's Internal Revenue Allotment stands at P993 million, almost six times that of oil smeared Guimaras' P166 million. How are IRAs spent? There are few performance indicators. Have IRAs become a crutch and have they stunted development of local taxing powers?

Data could broaden the dialogue between civil society, universities and LGUs—plagued by too many officials allocating bonuses for themselves, unliquidated cash advances, etc.

The urgency of explaining is best seen in the condensed COA ad on government controlled and owned corporations. The total income of 143 GOCCs last year was P174.5 billion, compared to P24.9 billion last year, it says. No mention of debts.

The fact is that there are 736 GOCCs, Asian Development Bank project document No. 39606 for technical assistance notes. This plethora does "socially-oriented responsibilities" or provides basic services: Water, housing, stabilized food supply, etc.

In theory, the Department of Finance monitors all 736. In fact, only 14 corporations are closely tracked due to their heavy call on public funds. Among others, these include: Home Guaranty Corp., Light Rail Transport Authority, National Power Corp. and various authorities in food, housing, irrigation, economic zones.

There's practically no oversight over the rest. Given the patchy accountability, GOCCs buy red ink by the barrel. They ran up debts amounting to P80.4 billion in 2000-004, excluding "indirect support" also in the billions.

The monitored GOCCs' consolidated deficit in 2004 was P84.4 billion or "about the same size as the potential new revenues that would be collected through the value-added tax law." What government clips from us through VAT on our gasoline, power, medicines, food, etc. is frittered away by GOCCs.

The GOCCs' losses jack up the public debt, University of the Philippines professors stressed in their paper, "The Deepening Crisis: The Real Score on Deficits and the Public Debts." Outstanding debt of the whole public sector, the study said, "was running at more than 130 percent of GDP."

The ADB paper, "Putting GOCCs on a Sound Footing," confirms that observation. Over a six-year period, government liabilities bolted by P2.4 trillion. Nearly half of that was racked up by GOCCs.

Clearly, the government's oversight mechanisms haven't reined in the spendthrifts. This breakdown does not appear in a short newspaper COA ad. Thus, Sen. Richard Gordon proposed in September 2004 that a House-Senate oversight committee be created. The super-heated political climate aborted it.

Merits of the Gordon proposal are debatable. But the need to examine the ballooning GOCC deficits, find long-term solutions—folding some GOCCs and spinning off others to the private sector—remain critical. Today's debt quagmire underscores the need for ensuring that watchdogs will bark.

"Monopoly Power + Discretion – Accountability = Corruption," explains ex-COA Commissioner Sofronio B. Ursal in his "Anti-Graft Handbook." That sums up the GOCC scene for now.

Given public support, the COA's bid for greater transparency may yet help dismantle that sordid pattern.

Fighting back

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THE DERAILED train called Cha-cha is careening down the path of sleeping residents of homes along *da riles*. It's the latest in a long list of oppression that in the last few months alone has included: The refusal by Malacañang to obey the Supreme Court ruling scrapping EO 464, CPR, and 1017 (to this day, officials summoned by the Senate routinely ignore it; to this day rallies are prevented or scuttled; and to this day democracy remains comatose); the "killing fields" courtesy of Jovito Palparan and like-minded generals; and Congress' summary execution of the impeachment bid against GMA.

Now, it's Cha-cha.

One Voice says it's ready to do battle with it. As indeed other groups and individuals who are preparing their briefs to present before the courts, the legislative bodies and the public in talk shows. I am not unsympathetic to the cause. I do think people ought to stand up and take notice, and fight this oppression with fire in their bellies and anger in their hearts.

There's no comfort to be taken from the fact that Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos says he won't act on Sigaw ng Bayan's petition to change the Charter in view of the Supreme Court's injunction against it, the petition having no enabling law. Neither the law nor the Supreme Court has stopped this government from doing what it wants. And Abalos himself has yet to appreciate the meaning of the phrase "full force of the law." He has presided over a Comelec that screwed a decade of effort to computerize canvassing by giving the winning bid to an unqualified bidder, and he hasn't been punished for it.

I do think we ought to "do battle" with Chacha, but I don't think that merely opposing Chacha is the way to do it. There is no end of ways to do battle, and I think a purely defensive posture is the least effective of them—if indeed it is effective at all. As the impeachment bid shows, having the truth on your side means nothing if you are fighting the enemy on his turf. You want to fight back, think offensive. You want to fight back, take the battle to your turf.

My own tack is this: In lieu of just mustering arguments against the Cha-cha and taking it on in various forums, launch your own signature campaign for a movement. The only way to fight a bad idea is through a good idea. My suggestion remains a campaign called: "Snap Gloria." The "Snap" there meaning "Say No to A Phony," and the call being for snap elections. A signature campaign for something like this has several advantages.

First, it will show up the lie in the name "Sigaw ng Bayan," which the people demanding Charter change have seen fit to appropriate. The only real *sigaw ng bayan*, or cry of the people, you will hear in this country is for Gloria to go away. You see that in surveys, you hear that in conversations. There is no cry for the presidential system to disappear from the nation's life, but there is a cry for Gloria to disappear from the people's lives. If the Cha-cha people can launch a signature campaign that says the sun revolves around the earth, I don't see why we can't launch a signature campaign that says the earth revolves around the sun. Like I said before, I am confident a campaign to "snap Gloria" will get more signatures in one week than the Cha-cha got in one year. Launch a campaign like this, and you will have more people lining up in your booths than before health centers distributing condoms. Some protections are better than others.

Second, it draws attention to the heart of the matter, something we may not allow this nation to forget. Which is the problem of an illegitimate president, which is the problem of an illegitimate rule. I do think the people who tried to impeach GMA for a second time made the mistake of enumerating too many issues against her. One would have sufficed: She stole the vote. Everything comes back to that, everything owes to that. A signature campaign to snap Gloria brings that back into focus. And it ranges itself directly against the Cha-cha: The Charter is genuine, the president is fake. Change the usurper, not the Charter. That is the slogan the campaign should carry.

And third, it gives the public something to do. Opposing Cha-cha merely turns the citizens into spectators of a not very genteel sport invented by their "betters." A signature campaign to snap Gloria gives them the opportunity to fight back. Nothing is more frustrating than immobility and a sense of powerlessness. It gives way to cynicism, indifference, or—as the survey shows—a desperate desire to flee this country and live elsewhere. The citizens need to be able to fight back. The citizens need to have a way to fight back.

The likely objection to this is that it will run against all sorts of legal tangles. There is no enabling law that says the citizens may compel snap elections by universal, or near-universal, acclamation. My answer to that is this:

At the very least, there is no enabling law either to allow a "people's initiative" to change the form of government, but that hasn't prevented Joe de V and company from attempting it. And clearly what they have is not a people's initiative, what they have is a personal initiative. Why can't a genuine people's initiative be mounted to change what truly ought to be changed?

At the very most, what is law really in its essence? Last I looked, in a democracy the people did not emanate from the law, the law emanated from the people. It was the people exercising their sovereign will that made the law and not the law playing with itself that made sovereign will. Lest we forget, GMA was made president completely lawfully by an act of sovereign will.

She can be unmade completely lawfully by an act of sovereign will.

UK antiterror law allows 28-day detention

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

INQUIRER COLUMNIST AMANDO DORONILA HIT it on the head when he opined that the reason various opposition efforts to oust President Arroyo have failed is that they adopted the wrong tactic. He said the opposition has concentrated on demonstrations and rallies in "Imperial Manila," in an effort to repeat Edsa, when the more effective way would be to bring their cause to the provinces, which have become the new fulcrum of power. Efforts to stir up the countryside against GMA, however, may also be futile, as she has courted the local executives from the beginning, and she has their loyalty.

* * *

GMA's first local government secretary, Joey Lina, now president of the Manila Hotel, used to say that she was the "friendliest" President toward local officials. One of her first moves upon assuming office in 2001, he noted, was to return to them the Internal Revenue Allotments past administrations owed them. Over the years, she has crisscrossed the country, pouring projects into the provinces. In her latest State of the Nation Address, she bared an ambitious P1.1-trillion infrastructure program that she touted as the "roadmap to prosperity." This consists of mega-projects, such as airports, ports, roads, roll-on roll-off projects, irrigation systems, etc., that will link the entire country over the next three years. Thus, the LGUs would not risk opposing her, as their constituents might punish them at the polls.

* * *

At the NBN-4 TV program "Equilibrium" hosted by Presidential Agrarian Reform Adviser Heherson Alvarez last Saturday, he and his guest, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, who sponsored the House justice committee impeachment report, analyzed the difference between the impeachment case against President Estrada and the latest move against GMA. Alvarez traced how he launched the complaint against Erap with just his own and Boy Herrera's signature. After a while, the number of signatories rose to 23, and after the legislative recess, suddenly there were 76, catapulting the complaint direct to the Senate. They opined that the congressmen must have sensed the mood of their constituents and acted accordingly. By contrast, they said, the House opposition was only able to garner 32 votes against GMA because the majority knew impeachment had no support among their people.

* * *

The LGUs proved time and again that they were GMA's bulwark of support. On July 8 last year, they turned out massively to counter the demands for her ouster. Recently it was also this group that worked hard to gather 10 million signatures behind the people's initiative. In this connection, I find the argument of UP lawyer Rene Azurin of One Voice illogical. He opined that because officials of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines were behind the initiative campaign, the 10 million signatures are "not the true voice of the people." But the people signed the petition and local election registrars verified their signatures. Moreover, they elected those officials. Is One Voice denigrating the fountainhead of all political authority?

* * *

At British Amb. Peter Beckingham's lunch for women in media, a predictable topic was how UK authorities were able to foil the plan of two dozen terrorists to blow up a number of planes flying from London to the US. He cited indications that the plot could have caused more deaths than 9/11, since the idea was to blow up the planes over the US continent. I was impressed not only by the foiling of the plot, but also the speedy prosecution of some of the terrorists. Beckingham stressed, perhaps by way of lamenting that our Senate still has not passed the antiterrorism bill, that British law allows authorities up to 28 days to detain a terrorist suspect without charge. It used to be allowed up to 14 days only, but the period was lengthened following last year's London bombings. In the land where the rights of man have been held sacred for 1,000 years, the safety of its citizens has become the most basic right.

* * *

But what we media women found most interesting was the envoy's info that the big boss of Britain's security service, MI5, is a 58-year-old career official with an extroverted personality, Dame Eliza Manningham-Buller. Married to a former army officer and moral philosophy lecturer-turned-carpenter, who provided her with five foster children from a previous marriage, UK's "first line of defense against al-Qaida" still cooks a roast dinner for them every Sunday. Actually Dame Eliza is the second woman to head MI5, the first being Dame Stella Rimington, who also sprang from the ranks.

* * *

UK's top spy has a pedigreed background. The daughter of Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller, who served as chancellor in the Douglas-Home government, she attended the exclusive Benenden public school in Kent where she was a contemporary of Princess Anne. She went on to Oxford University, where it was believed MI5 first attempted to recruit her. After three years of teaching English there, she joined MI5 in 1974 at the height of the Cold War. Quickly graduating from typing transcripts of bugged phone conversations to a full-fledged spy-catcher, Dame Eliza became a counter-terrorism expert. She was deeply involved in the Lockerbie investigation and MI5's Irish counter-terrorism branch. In 1997 she became the deputy director-general, and when its chief, Sir Stephen Lander, retired in 2002, she became the natural choice to succeed him.

* * *

For those wishing to attend the high-caliber international conference on the life and work of Jesuit philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, registration begins at 4:30 p.m. today at Escaler Hall, Ateneo University. Today's opening ceremonies start at 6 p.m., with an invocation by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, D.D., followed by the opening remarks of Ateneo president Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., and the introduction of the conference theme by Fr. Georg Ziselsberger, SVD, chair of the organizing committee.

How much to tell?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHILE FILIPINO PARENTS HAVE YET TO CONfront the dilemma of whether and how much to tell their daughters about the new vaccine against HPV, they would do well to heed the lessons learned by parents of teenage and preteen girls in the US and elsewhere where the vaccine has been approved for marketing.

HPV stands for "human papillomavirus," a very common virus that causes genital warts and which has been linked to as much as 97 percent of all cervical cancer cases. The vaccine has been developed against two types of HPV most commonly linked to cervical cancer, and is administered through three shots over a six-month period. Because the vaccine works most effectively before sexual initiation, since HPV is transmitted primarily through sexual contact, it's been recommended that girls as young as nine years old be inoculated against the virus, before they become sexually active.

And here lies the crux of parental uneasiness about the anti-HPV vaccine. How much information should they give their daughters when telling them about the vaccine and convincing them to get the shots? "Do they simply say it's a vaccine against cancer and leave it at that? Or should they also explain that HPV is a sexually transmitted disease that, among other symptoms, causes genital warts?" asks Martha Irvine, in an article written for the Associated Press.

If the vaccine had not been developed for a disease that has been linked to a sexually transmitted virus, odds are that parents would not hesitate at all about urging their daughters to go for the shots, or giving them all the information they need to make the right decision. But as with all matters related to sex, the anti-HPV vaccine is raising uneasy questions among parents, if not a measure of hesitancy.

* * *

"HPV is a weighty topic that more parents are addressing with their daughters, since the Food and Drug Administration recently approved the vaccine ... Some parents, particularly those with preteen girls, are wondering just how much information to share," writes Irvine.

Irvine quotes Linda Zabrowski, the mother of 14-year-old Amanda who agreed to take the vaccine: "When I was young, my mom said, 'Here's a book.' That's how we learned about sex. But it's not like that now."

"She started to realize that when she sat in on Amanda's fourth-grade lesson on reproductive anatomy a few years ago and discovered that some girls were already menstruating," relates Irvine.

The article states that US government surveys have found that about 7 percent of children have had sexual intercourse before age 13, while about 25 percent had sex by age 15. "And while teen pregnancy rates have steadily dropped since the early 1990s," writes Irvine, "millions of teens and young adults are contracting sexually transmitted diseases—HPV among the most common."

The Centers for Disease Control estimate that more than six million Americans—many of them teens and young adults, says Irvine—get a new infection of HPV each year.

"Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, an adolescent and internal medicine specialist at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, says parents need to take those statistics seriously when deciding how to address the HPV vaccine," writes Irvine.

"Cervical cancer is real. Sex is real—and even though we believe our kid is different and will never have sex until (he or she is) married, it is not reality," Rohr-Kirchgraber says.

* * *

PARENTAL discomfort with addressing—or even admitting—our children's sexuality has been a serious issue in the Philippines, where the anti-HPV vaccine has yet to be approved.

The issue has emerged time and time again in various guises: Sex education in public schools, marketing condoms to teens, making reproductive health services accessible to young people, even talking about sex on TV. The common thread is the adults' fear that recognizing young people's curiosity about sex, and providing the answers to their urgent questions, will somehow send the message that it's "okay" for them to indulge in sexual relations.

Well, for parents still laboring under the myth of their children's naivete, the news is that young people aren't exactly waiting for our permission before satisfying their curiosity. The bad news is that when they do begin acting on their sexual impulses without adequate information and counseling, ignorance and misinformation will put them at greater risk.

We raise alarms about teenage pregnancies, out-of-wedlock unions, rising rates of sexually transmitted infections and general "immorality," and yet we also refuse to take the necessary measures that will ensure that our children avoid these unwanted consequences of sex.

I won't be surprised if, in the course of seeking recognition, drug companies marketing the anti-HPV vaccine will face opposition from so-called guardians of public morality who would much rather keep young women ignorant about sex than keep them from dying from cervical cancer. Just once, please prove me wrong!

* * *

CORRECTION. Professional Regulation Commission Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero wrote to clarify a point in a recent column on the controversial nursing board exam. I had written that secured diskettes with the exam questions were brought to accredited printers for printing into booklets. The PRC chair made clear that this procedure is followed only in the exam for teachers, given the large number of examinees. For the nursing and other board exams, the booklets are printed "inside our own in-house printing facilities, at the Confidential Printing Room."

Tripon-Rosero added, though, that they are thinking of using a printer contractor for the nursing boards because of the limitations of their in-house facilities.

Moving beyond Mexico's crisis

WORLD VIEW

Alfred Stepan and Enrique Ochoa Reza

AS THE CRISIS OVER MEXICO'S DISPUTED presidential election continues, questions are being raised not only about the conduct of the seemingly defeated candidate, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, but also about Mexico's presidential system. Is "presidentialism" as practiced in Mexico part of the problem?

Felipe Calderón of the center-right ruling party, the National Action Party (PAN), is currently leading in the vote count, which must be confirmed by September. The next scheduled presidential election is not until 2012, as are elections to the Senate, whose assent is needed for most legislation. Thus, Calderón and his party allies, with 41 percent of the Senate seats, can never have a majority during his six-year term, and will also have a minority in the lower chamber, where PAN holds only 43 percent of the seats, until at least 2009.

If the street protests and legal challenges being mounted by López Obrador succeed, he will be in an even weaker position. López Obrador's center-left Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), together with allied small parties, holds 31 percent of the Senate, and slightly less than one-third of the lower chamber. This means that for the first three years of a presidency brought to power amid great popular demands, López Obrador would not be able to enact little reform legislation.

So, whoever wins the election will have a partial minority in the legislature for his entire six-year term, and his legitimacy will be questioned by large segments of the electorate. In fact, since 1985, 15 Latin American presidents, most without legislative majorities, have not finished their term. No one would want Mexico to add to that total, or to witness the emergence of serious anti-democratic tendencies.

Could the current standoff lead to such an outcome?

Mexico's transition to democracy between 1977 and 2000 was aided by a series of constitutional reforms that contributed to the emergence of the widely credible Federal Election Institute (IFE). To date, neither the IFE nor any major international monitor, has alleged widespread electoral fraud. Moreover, each of the seven judges on Mexico's Federal Election Tribunal was individually approved by two-thirds majorities in the Senate, which included PAN and PRD.

The Election Tribunal's decision to recount only 9 percent of the ballot boxes cannot be reversed without more evidence of wrongdoing. If more evidence emerges, democratic prudence councils a complete recount.

Whatever the result of a recount, the winner would command enhanced legitimacy. But the new president, whoever he may be, would still lack a legislative majority. In other words, the current crisis reflects a deeper, constitutional flaw.

There are three classic models of democratic executives: Pure parliamentarism, as in Britain; semi-presidentialism, as in Charles de Gaulle's French Fifth Republic; and pure presidentialism, as in the US. Interestingly, whereas Britain, France and the US have not altered their models, many other successful democracies have introduced major changes in order to prevent dangerous problems with how the "pure" variant functions in the local context.

In interwar Europe, parliamentarism in many countries was plagued by frequent votes of no confidence, bringing down governments and leaving states rudderless for long periods. After World War II, many countries with parliamentary systems reduced the likelihood of such instability by adopting the so-called "constructive vote of no confidence." Before a no confidence vote can be held, agreement must be reached on a new government majority to take its place.

These majorities are often constituted by complex coalitions of three or more parties that concur on a minimum program. Since the new government could also fall unless it retains a legislative majority, parliamentary systems have important "coalition requiring" and "coalition sustaining" incentives.

The semi-presidential model has also produced variants. The most perilous outcome under this model is when neither the president nor the prime minister has a majority, which has never occurred in France, but has occurred in postcommunist countries such as Russia and Ukraine. In such circumstances, presidents have abused their powers and created "super-presidential semi-presidential" authoritarian regimes. To prevent this, Portugal, Poland, Lithuania, Slovenia, and recently Croatia and Ukraine reduced the constitutional powers of the directly elected president and increased the parliament's powers.

Mexico's crisis is the ideal time to consider new variants of presidentialism. One alternative, called "parliamentarized presidentialism," retains direct presidential elections, which many societies still demand. If a candidate emerges with at least 50.1 percent of the popular vote, he or she is declared president. In these circumstances, the model functions as classic presidentialism (even if it does not produce legislative majorities).

If, however, no candidate receives 50.1 percent of the popular vote, the elected legislature chooses the president, who thus would begin his term with a legislative majority. Unlike a directly elected president in classic presidentialism, such a legislatively produced president could be voted out by a "constructive vote of no confidence," leaving incumbents subject to "coalition requiring" and "coalition sustaining" incentives.

Of course, there is no guarantee that such a system would bring greater democratic stability to countries like Mexico, but it would provide many more mechanisms to resolve crises than are currently available. *—Project Syndicate*

Alfred Stepan is professor of Government at Columbia University. Enrique Ochoa Reza is professor of Constitutional Law at Unam, Mexico City

Wild east winds

YOUNG BLOOD

Jonas Cabiles Soltes

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IF CATANDUANES IS THE LAND OF THE HOWLING WINDS because it is hardest hit when fierce supertyphoons visit Bicol, then, as its nearest neighbor, Camarines Sur should be called The Land of the Barking Winds.

In the early 1970s, Sening, the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines with winds of up to 275 kilometers per hour, battered Virac, Catanduanes, before smashing Camarines Sur as a very powerful Category 5 typhoon. In the mid-1990s, Supertyphoon Rosing almost flattened Catanduanes with its 260 kilometers per hour gusts before pounding Camarines Sur. Of course these two supertyphoons were just the strongest and most devastating visitors to the two provinces.

Although it is Catanduanes that absorbs the fiercest winds, Camarines Sur, which is more populous and has more agricultural lands, usually suffers the greatest losses both in terms of lives and properties whenever a typhoon strikes.

I grew up in Tinambac, one of the northern towns of Camarines Sur. Since my hometown lies in the most battered part of the province, I grew up with typhoons, with the wild east winds. Thus like the older folks there, memories of typhoons never leave me even when it is sunny. But the two typhoons that stand put are Rosing and Monang, which struck in 1993.

It was early December when Monang swept over our province. I was watching by our window when the typhoon blew down our leafy mango trees. I saw my sister praying tearfully for the strong winds to stop. My mother was praying that it would move quickly out to the sea. The howling lasted until about midnight.

When I woke up the next morning, the sky was a clear blue but all our mangoes and other fruit trees had been uprooted by Monang. More than a dozen of the chickens we kept in our backyard were dead, some of them crushed by falling branches, others dying from the cold weather.

We had an early Christmas vacation. But before classes were suspended, we held a Christmas program in our school. The theme was "Pasko sa gitna ng kalamidad" (Christmas amid a calamity), a theme suggested by my Grade 1 teacher.

It was a black Christmas season. And literally too, since there was a power blackout that lasted until April of the following year. I remember Mama going to Naga to apply for a calamity loan, but she returned empty-handed. We only had a pack of cheap sparklers and a small "fountain" to welcome the New Year.

It was All Soul's Day when Rosing spoiled our Christmas two years later. It was too late when we knew a "super" was coming. The weather had turned nasty by the time Papa started boarding up our windows and doors and pruning the trees in our yard. My two older brothers served as village criers, informing our nearest neighbors, mostly my parents' godchildren, that a very strong typhoon was coming in a matter of hours.

Afternoon came and the pounding began. We were watching from our small porch as some tall lofty eucalyptus trees were being blown down in the distance. The wind then blew away the roof of the makeshift school building beyond. The water in the creek near our house was rising quickly, and soon it had turned into a raging river carrying away dead animals, coconuts, branches, leaves and other debris. When the rain and the roaring winds reduced visibility to near-zero, we decided to go inside our house.

The strongest winds came at 11 o'clock that night. It was too dark for us to see what was happening outside. We could only hear loud cracking, clanging, banging, clapping, rumbling, wheezing and slamming. While the nature raged outside, we were reciting all the mysteries of the rosary and praying that we would make it through the night.

Morning came and a blue sky greeted us like an old but sorry friend. All around, there was only destruction. Our barangay was Nagasaki without the radiation. Trees that remained standing were leafless. Many houses had lost their roofs. Fallen leaves were inches thick.

Life was hard in the following months. Many of my older brothers' classmates dropped out of college. Children in our barangay elementary school did not return when classes resumed. With ricefields and crops destroyed, some people went to the forest in search of food. Many would come to our house offering their children's shoes and second-hand trousers in exchange for a kilo of rice, not knowing that we had nothing, too.

It has been a decade since our town was hit by a supertyphoon. Superhowlers may be long overdue, although many typhoons have struck our province after Monang and Rosing. However, three very strong typhoons have been blowing over Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, and the rest of Bicol, regardless of the seasons. They developed earlier than Monang or Rosing, and they have outlasted the two.

The first is Typhoon Brain Drain. Many talented and skilled young Bicolanos are leaving Bicol for better-paying jobs in Manila and abroad as the region "enjoys" a low minimum wage for workers. Some of my classmates, who are fresh out of college, have joined the exodus. The region is experiencing the same phenomenon as our country as a whole. And what the brain drain is doing to the country, it is also doing to Bicol.

The second is Typhoon Politics. Governance has become more pretentious. Bicol politicians, especially those occupying high offices, build white elephants so that their initials and surnames will be immortalized in waiting sheds, overpasses, and a few ambitious projects. In the meantime, real public service is forgotten. Through the years, it seems as if only hard-nosed politicians and members of political dynasties can exercise power in the region. Nothing wrong with their staying in power until kingdom come, if only they were not guided solely by the ideas of Machiavelli.

Then there is Typhoon Malnutrition. The provinces and cities of Bicol have some of the highest rates of malnutrition in the country. It is not a rare sight to have schoolchildren coming to school hungry, but provincial and city officials can't seem to find any long-term solution to the problem. All they do is give the children milk from God knows where from time to time.

These three typhoons, the metaphors of the true "state of the nation" in Bicol, continue to blow. These wilder east winds are blowing stronger than Monang and Rosing combined. So we Bicolanos have to board up our doors and windows, and prune the trees in our yard. When these typhoons grow stronger, we will fall on our knees and pray that we will make it through the night.

Jonas Cabiles Soltes, 20, is a correspondent of Bicol Mail, a weekly regional newspaper.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

National ID: a fascist corpse being brought to life

WHILE THE PRO-ADMINISTRATION CONGRESSMEN in the House of Representatives were burying the impeachment complaint they just murdered, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was breathing life to the corpse of fascism through a national ID, even after she had unleashed its zombies to run amok with her administration's calibrated preemptive response policy, Executive Order 464, Presidential Proclamation 1017 and extrajudicial killings. On the day the House majority was set to kill the impeachment complaint that accused GMA of cheating, lying and stealing, she was again lying to the people about the fantastic benefits of a national ID. She was once again treating the nation to her Enchanted Kingdom.

But a national or unified ID will not lead to better services for the workers and the poor because the real problem is the lack of budget for social services. A unified ID in the hands of GMA, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan will only provide the strong foundation for a unified mechanism for state terror.

Apparently, the Arroyo regime is not contented with the Spanish-era *cedula*. It must have a unified ID with biometrics to facilitate its military's "sona" or hamletting operations, not just in the countryside but also in the cities. With a national ID, they can terrorize not just the peasants and the poor of Nueva Ecija and Bulacan, but also any Juan de la Cruz anywhere in the country.

For as long as the government submits to its fascist bent and does not respect human rights, the workers, certain that a national ID will be used not to deliver basic services but to abuse civil liberties, will always oppose it.

—JUDY ANN MIRANDA,
secretary general,
Partido ng Manggagawa,
5 Matyaga St., Barangay Central,
Quezon City

IBP chair votes only in case of tie

THIS IS IN REACTION TO VICTOR AGUSTIN'S column titled "Soft on Sigma Rogues." (PDI, 6/19/06)

The denial of complainant's motion for reconsideration (MR) by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in the case of "Erlinda I. Bildner vs. Atty Lokin Jr and IBP" is based on Sec. 8, par. 3, Rule 139-B of the Rules of Court which states:

"Thereafter, the IBP shall within 15 days issue a resolution setting forth its findings and recommendation, which shall forthwith be transmitted to the Supreme Court for final action and, if warranted, the imposition of penalty."

The IBP must transmit its recommendation "forthwith" to the SC. "Forthwith" means "immediately." If the IBP allows an MR, a supervening event, it cannot immediately transmit its recommendation. Based on the abovementioned rule, the 2001-03 IBP governors, under its president Teofilo Pilando, promulgated the procedure which disallowed the MR. Thus, when the 2003-05 IBP governors denied the MR, it was done in good faith considering that the abovementioned rule was still in effect. This was only disallowed in the latest ruling (June 5, 2006) on the Lokin case. Must not the high court likewise discard Sec. 8, par. 3 of Rule 139-B of the Rules of Court?

There were only two others members of the 2003-05 IBP board of governors who were Sigma Rhoans. The board is composed of 10 members. It is a collegial body. As its chair, I only vote in case of a tie. The vote to absolve lawyer Lokin Jr was unanimous. How then can Agustin accuse me of being "soft on" Lokin Jr when I did not even vote?

In his July 3, 2006 column titled "IBP's double standard," Agustin again took the IBP to task, saying "the (Court) fined and censured Judge Antonio Reyes for having his three-month dining spree at the Baguio Country Club paid for by Atty. Federico Agcaoili while the judge was hearing a BCC case in his sala."

Lawyer Agcaoili allegedly paid for the accounts all incurred in August, September and October 1999. The case filed by Ramon K. Ilusorio was only assigned to Judge Reyes on Oct. 20, 1999. In the case "Ilusorio vs. Judge Reyes," which was decided on June 26, 2006, the Court ruled:

"While Ilusorio's evidence cannot, in our appreciation, support a finding of guilt for bribery or violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, it is certainly not amiss to say that Judge Reyes' conduct under the premises fall short of the exacting standards for prudence expected of members of the bench."

The IBP dismissed the charge against Agcaoili on May 24, 2006, or almost a month before the decision on Judge Reyes, who was censured and fined by the Court only because his actions were short of the "exacting standards" demanded from men of the bench, of which Agcaoili is not a member.

—JOSE ANSELMO I. CADIZ,
former national president,
Integrated bar of the Philippines

POOR Filipinos set up dwellings just about everywhere.

Poverty measured by more than just lack of money

DR. CIELITO HABITO'S COLUMN TItled "Who are the poor?" (PDI, 8/21/06), which focused on who among our people need help most—a highly socially relevant issue—revealed that this is not an easy task considering that various organizations, whether government and private, give diverse estimates of how many Filipinos are really poverty-stricken as they use different types of measurements.

Habito cautioned about these measurements because, except for the Social Weather Stations (SWS) poverty survey, they all measure poverty in terms of earned/spent income. In contrast, recent literature on poverty, particularly inspired by the writings of Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor Amartya Sen, argues that poverty is also manifested by non-income factors such as the lack of voice of the poor in the body politic, the lack of access to basic services such as education and health.

Along this line, it is worth noting that studies have consistently shown that among the major causes of poverty (besides environmental degradation) in the country is a large family size. Orbeta (2003) revealed that in year 2000, poverty incidence among couples with one kid is only 10 percent, rising to 16 percent among couples with two kids. In contrast, poverty incidence among couples with eight kids dramatically increased to 55 percent and couples with nine kids to 57.5 percent.

These statistics demonstrate the incontrovertible fact that if we are to help the very poor in the country, access to modern contraceptives at affordable prices should form part of our poverty reduction strategy. Refusal by the government to recognize this reality simply means that it is not serious in its poverty reduction goal for the country.

—BENJAMIN D. DE LEON,
president,
Forum for Family Planning
and Development,
forum4fp@yahoo.com

Mail from US being pilfered?

MY DAUGHTER SENT, VIA AIR MAIL, from the United States three greeting cards, none of which to this date have been received:

(1) a Mother's Day card; (2) a birthday card for her brother; and (3) a Father's Day card.

I believe pilferage of the mail is a matter of public interest, and deserves an investigation by the Office of the Postmaster General.

—NICASIO G. VALDERRAMA,
2 Scouter Ojeda St.,
Barangay Paligsahan,
Quezon City 1103

The challenge to rage against injustice

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE INQUIRER for reporting the awful but genuine truth regarding the oil spill in Guimaras, the killing of journalists and activists, the leakage of test questions in the June 2006 nursing board exams and the bid to impeach the President. It is now up to us, Filipinos, how we will respond to the challenges faced by our nation today.

Will we keep our silence amid the unjust killings of Filipinos (because they happened to be on the other side of the political fence) until one of our own in the family has also been murdered? Shall we rise up to the challenge of bringing before the bar of justice those responsible for the massive oil spill in Guimaras, so that environmental disasters of such an unimaginable scale will never happen again in our country? What is our stand regarding the cheating issue in the last nursing exams? What does it say about our morals as a people and a nation?

And finally, do we really care about transparency in government, when what we see is the stubborn refusal of the Arroyo administration to submit itself to public accountability?

When will we get our senses back? When will we finally feel the rage inside our bodies, to finally act together as one nation and fight against the injustices being committed in our land?

—EDWARD FELIX M. DONATO,
7 Ipil St., Maywood I Vill.,
Parañaque City

USA
$550

Take off to the U.S. from only $550!

Enjoy a special getaway to sunny California or explore the Big Apple with these special fares from Northwest Airlines®. Fly from Manila between September 1 and October 31, 2006 and return by November 30, 2006. Tickets must be booked and purchased before August 31, 2006, so don't delay. Start packing for your getaway to the U.S. today! Enjoy special savings when you book online at nwa com/ph or call Northwest Reservations at 841 8800 or your travel agent. Terms and conditions apply.

Fly from Manila to:	Roundtrip Economy Class Fare
Honolulu, Los Angeles, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Las Vegas	$550
New York, Boston, Washington D.C., and Orlando	$650

Above fares do not include Passenger Facility Charges, security or fuel surcharges and tax liability.

nwa.com/ph

nwa NORTHWEST AIRLINES

SKYTEAM

Terms & Conditions: Passenger Facility Charges, security or fuel surcharges and tax liability are the responsibility of the user • Travel must originate and end in Manila • This offer is valid for roundtrip travel from Manila to Honolulu, Los Angeles, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Las Vegas, New York, Boston, Washington D C., and Orlando between September 1 and October 31, 2006. Minimum stay is 3 days and maximum stay is 90 days or by November 30, 2006, whichever comes first. Return travel must commence by November 30, 2006 • Ticket must be purchased on or before August 31, 2006 • This offer is valid for paid roundtrip transpacific flights on Northwest-operated and Northwest Airlink flights only • This offer is valid on flights with fare basis code VPHSL8 • This special offer is available on E-Tickets only • Booking Class: V Class in Economy • Reservations must be ticketed within 72 hours after reservations are confirmed • Online booking service is only available to passengers with a registered mailing address in the Philippines • One (1) free stopover in the U.S. is allowed within routing, no stopover in Japan is allowed • Only single open-jaw itinerary is permitted for cities included in this promotion • Open segments/waitlists/one-way travel is not permitted • Flight/Date change prior to or after departure is permitted at a charge of US$150 provided the new itinerary meets all the provisions of this promotion • Origin/Destination may not be changed once ticketed • Partially used tickets are non-refundable. Wholly unused tickets are refundable with a cancellation fee of US$150 per ticket before departure • When traveling with an adult, Child's fare is 75% of the adult special fare and infant's fare is 10% of the adult special fare • These special fares cannot be used with Electronic Credit Voucher (ECV), Travel Credit Voucher (TCV), Travel Discount Coupon (TDC), upgrade certificate, WorldPerks award travel, companion pass or any other discount coupon, nor can it be combined with any other Northwest or WorldPerks promotions • These fares are eligible for WorldPerks miles. You must be a WorldPerks member to earn flight miles for your travel • The number of seats available for use with this offer is limited. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotional fares • The promotional fares will not be reflected if there are no V Class seats available for your selected period of travel • The lowest fare available will be displayed on the selected flight/date for your itinerary. If this special fare is not listed on the departure flight/date you selected, please choose alternate travel date or fare category • Fares and conditions are subject to change without prior notice. Other conditions may apply • Northwest is the final authority on the interpretation of these rules

It's not enough to bring out youth vote

I JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON THE NEWS story titled "5 youths raise hope in voter's campaign." (PDI, 8/22/06) According to the report, the five have formed a group called "Edsa II Babies" which will campaign for greater involvement of the Filipino youth in the 2007 elections—meaning, get the young to have a strong say in choosing our next leaders through the ballot. But is this really that simple?

The EDSA II Babies' vision of empowering the young by encouraging them to exercise their right of suffrage is good, but I think it's missing an important factor—the system of electing our leaders. For now, this system is not credible, more so to the youth who have seen how past local and national elections have been manipulated. Even before the "Hello Garci" scandal, traditional politicians have been cheating their way to office. In other words, it is an awful truth, but rigging elections, "dagdag-bawas," and the "3Gs" have been part of Philippine elections for a long, long time.

Right now, elections are no longer an indicator of a vibrant democracy. A 100-percent youth turn-out in the voting will not be enough to ensure clean elections or honest results, or a brighter future for our country. Because of the system.

I am not an advocate of Charter change. A genuine change is what I seek. It is not enough to register, get out and vote. The challenge is not just to choose the right leaders but to cleanse the whole government bureaucracy of the rot that traditional politicians and unscrupulous public servants have desecrated it with. And I hope my fellow Filipino youth will see and take up this challenge.

—WENG SARMIENTO.
smooth.subtle@yahoo.com

Letter asking for SC review of Manotok case did not impede administration of justice

THE NEWS ITEM "LEGAL FIGHT FOR MANOtok compound not yet over" (PDI, 8/9/06) reported that lawyer Jose B. Flaminiano had asked the Supreme Court to cite former Justice Florentino P. Feliciano for contempt for requesting Chief Justice Antonio Panganiban and other members of the Court, in a letter, to review en banc the decision of the Court's First Division which had annulled his client's (the Manotok family) title to the Manotok Subdivision and awarded the property itself to Flaminiano's client, the heirs of Homer L. Barque.

With due respect to Flaminiano, who is considered one of our best criminal lawyers, I disagree with him that Feliciano obstructed justice in writing the letter. Note that in his letter, Feliciano did not ask his former colleagues to overturn, but just to review en banc, the decision of the First Division. Under its rules, the Court *sua sponte* may hear en banc a case that it deems of sufficient importance.

The Manotok case involved a very important and difficult legal question, a veritable Gordian knot, that had stumped previous trial and appellate courts into rendering decisions which legal scholars had criticized as erroneous. A review of the Manotok decision by the tribunal will be the last opportunity to resolve, once and for all, this century-old Maysilo Estate land problem.

Every lawyer has a duty to his client and to himself to pursue all legal recourses to advance his client's interests. The letter of Feliciano to his former colleagues is not an illegal act—although some like Flaminiano would call it inappropriate, which I also dispute. Feliciano had two options available to him—put his request in a motion to the Court or in a letter to his colleagues. He chose the latter medium, a form used since ancient times in addressing the sovereign for redress of grievances or for clemency. Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the letter was inappropriate, it did not constitute a contemptuous act simply because it was not intended to influence the justices to overturn the Manotok decision. Neither did it have the effect of impeding the administration of justice.

—DELFIN L. GONZALEZ,
18 Doña Ines cor. Ormoc,
Alabang Hills Village,
1770 Muntinlupa City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

EZ2 1 26 | FOUR DIGIT 3 2 4 5
Evening SUERTRES Mid-Day
6 4 0 | 2 3 4
(All in exact order)

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* Tony Bergonia

MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 8 16 23 26 44
₱15,273,838.80

Gunmen take hostages to elude troops

MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO—FIVE PERSONS WERE taken hostage by retreating Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels, who stormed a pre-dominantly Muslim village here early morning yesterday.

The rebels were using Tandog Kamid, 50; Jeria Demalanes, 45; Saguira Musa, 30; Arnel Basco, 50 and Karya Kusain, 53, as human shields against pursuing troops, according to Capt. Abdulmaguid Buisan of the Army's 38th Infantry Battalion.

Buisan said the rebels, numbering about 50, attacked Barangay Palomugin and fired at houses and a military outpost around 5 a.m.

Militiamen manning the outpost fired back, killing one rebel, he said.

But Buisan said Mamay Demalanes, 23, and her son Balosi, 13, were injured in the gunfight that lasted for about an hour.

Anludin Kamalon, a resident of Palomugin, said the guerrillas have demanded that villagers give them food and other provisions.

Mayor Romeo Araña said villagers have long been complaining of extortion by armed groups, especially during the harvest season.

The Midsayap police said about 50 families have fled the battle.

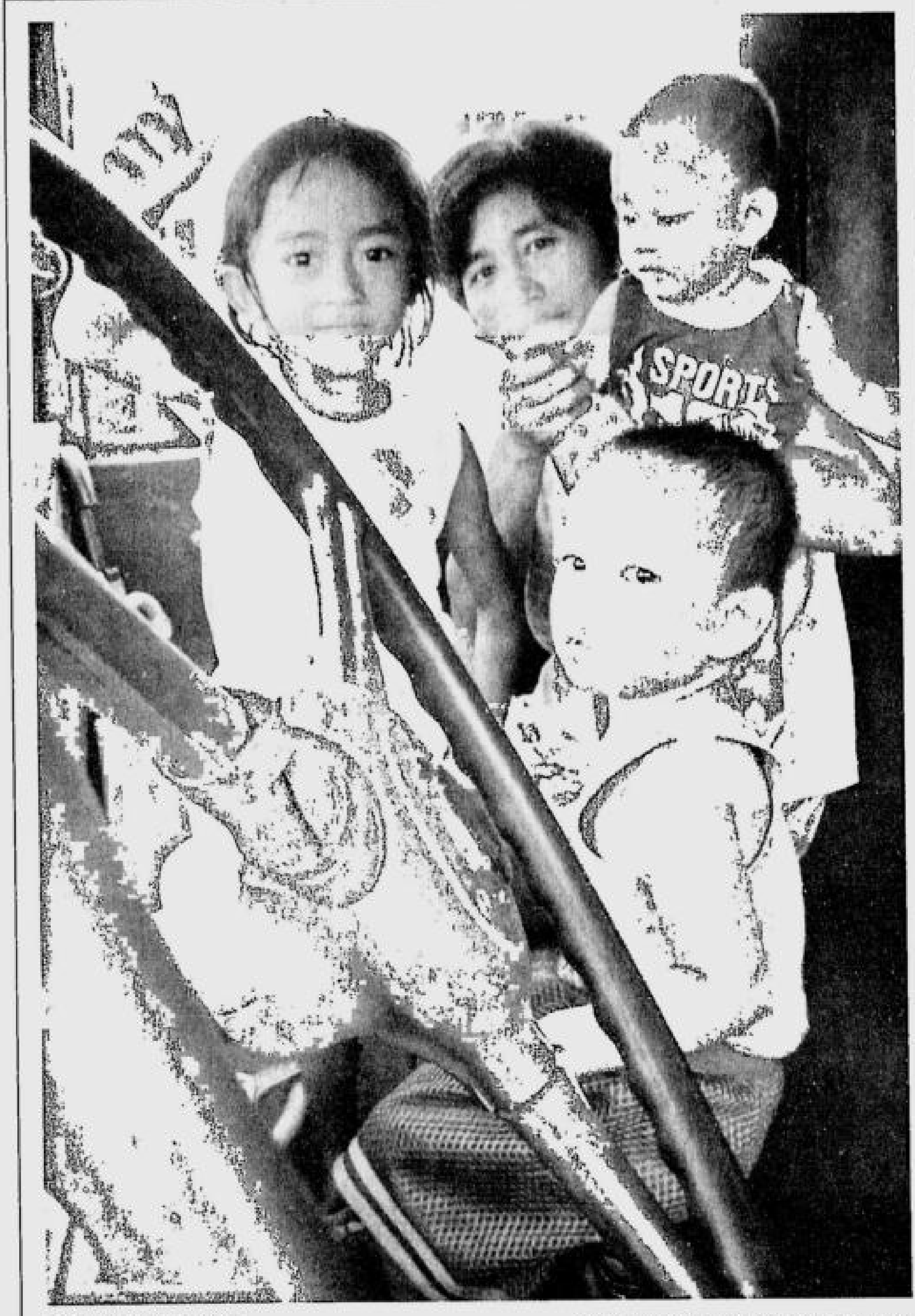
As of late yesterday afternoon, the hostages were still in the hands of the rebels.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said he already asked the MILF to intervene so that the hostages would be released.

"Things like these should not be happening anymore in North Cotabato, there is a ceasefire (agreement), and I have told Eid Kabalu that we should be working together instead of fighting each other," Piñol told the INQUIRER.

In a separate interview, Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the MILF leadership was still determining whether the attackers were really members of the separatist group or just gunmen who were using the MILF's name.

"We could only intercede if they are really MILF members," he said. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*



DRIVER'S SEAT NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

A woman and her children enjoy the ride home in a military truck that would take them away from shelters that they called temporary homes since Mayon became restive. *(See story and more photos on Page 14)*

WWII bomb explodes, kills 5 fishermen

CAMP MIGUEL MALVAR, BATANGAS City—Five fishermen got their bodies blown into pieces after a vintage bomb exploded at Barangay Payapa, Nasugbu, Batangas around 6:20 p.m., Sunday.

The Nasugbu police identified the victims as Jose Alvarez, 30, a fisherman and Cafgu member, Alberto Malig-on, 40, fisherman—both residents of Barangay Payapa; Eugenio Kaagay, 55, a native of Mariveles, Bataan, a certain "Enteng" and a certain "Bayong."

Police reports said that around 6:20 p.m., Sunday, the fishermen were cutting metals from a vintage bomb they gathered in the sea of Sitio Cabaong, a kilometer away from Payapa, when it suddenly exploded at the seashore.

Elorde Belen, lone survivor of the explosion, was reported still missing, said SPO1 Benito Bay, desk officer of Nasugbu police.

Bay told the INQUIRER that Sitio Cabaong is home to sunken World War II Japanese ships that contain several vintage bombs.

The victims were believed divers of a junk shop who usually sell gun powder gathered from vintage bombs to Manila traders.

Members of the Explosives and Ordnance Disposal team from the 730th Philippine Air Force Combat Group immediately defused remaining bombs in the area. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Parents seek probe of 'anomalies' at science environment camps

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—A GROUP of parents here is seeking an independent investigation of the alleged anomalous conduct of a series of science environment camps by the Department of Education.

The parents called the events as mere "money-making" scheme and demanded an accounting of the more than P1.1 million which organizers collected from about 2,100 students and teachers from private and public schools in the north and south sectors of Nueva Vizcaya.

The environment science camps, held in Bintawan Sur in Villaverde town and Bone South in Aritao town on Aug. 18 to 20 and 26 to 28, respectively, were sponsored by the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs and the Science Club Advisers Association of the Philippines, and sanctioned by the DepEd.

DepEd officials said the annual outdoor event was meant to create better awareness among students on the importance of ecology and protection of the environment.

But complaining parents and teachers assailed organizers for their apparent lack of planning, citing the alleged shortage of food and questionable activities during the event.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Alma Dolores Bodino, schools division superintendent, on Monday. A member of her staff said she was attending an activity of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

But Remedios Panganiban, DepEd supervisor for English, denied the parents' accusations.

Panganiban said the P500 collected from each participant covered six meals and four snacks, a training kit, honorarium for camp officials and other "incidental expenses."

"This is the only time that we have heard of complaints. I ask you not to listen to the parents because they are not participants," Panganiban said.

At least three children contracted the flu after attending the science camp in Bintawan Sur. Parents said the children often had to queue for hours under the rain for their food.

"My son said he had to use his plate to shield himself from the rain. He couldn't have gotten sick had organizers thought of better ways to distribute the food," said Orlando Jallorina of Quezon town, whose son suffered from fever.

Many children, on a number of occasions, failed to get their meals after lining up for hours because food had run out, the parents said.

They said a pageant held during the event featured boys, some as young as seven years old, parading on stage without shirts. Some girls who joined the pageant wore skimpy outfits and danced on stage while their school officials cheered, they added.

"The search was also held at night, lasting until the wee hours of the morning when most of the children [should be] asleep. So, they practically learned nothing from the search," said Roderick Acosta, a father of a fourth grader from Aritao town.

A grade school teacher from Bambang town, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of harassment from her superiors, lamented the poor response of officials when a contestant suffered a seizure during the pageant.

Panganiban dismissed the parents' demand for an audit of the funds.

"This is a DepEd activity so nobody can tell me to [submit myself] to an accounting, and I would do it only with the clearance of the superintendent because she is my boss," she said.

"Holding a science camp is a complicated task, so [people] cannot expect us to perfect it," she said. *Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Chavit relative, BCDA, PPA officials face contempt for defying court order

DAGUPAN CITY—A RELATIVE OF ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson faces possible contempt of court for the alleged refusal by a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to allow workers at the Poro Point seaport and bulk terminal to resume port operations despite a recent injunction from the San Fernando, La Union Regional Trial Court.

Brigido Dulay, lawyer of Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), described reports that the BCDA subsidiary Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) would not honor the injunction issued by the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court as "very sad."

PPMC is headed by Felix Singson-Racadio, a cousin of Governor Singson who is campaigning to have the PPIC contract to run the seaport rescinded.

Dulay said their personnel were barred by "armed guards" of PPMC and BCDA from resuming operations at the seaport in San Fernando City.

"As I have always said, we abide by the court decision and we can only hope that they, too, will abide by the decision even if it is favorable to us," Dulay said in a telephone interview on Monday.

San Fernando City RTC Judge Robert Cawed on Friday issued an injunction stopping the BCDA and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) from operating the Poro Point seaport. The order also covered PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla, PPA port manager Silverio Mangaoang, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and officials of PPMC.

"The court ruled in our favor. We can go to court again to enforce the decision," Dulay said.

But he wondered why PPMC can "ignore" the court. *Yolanda Sotelo Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

www.sountex.com
We're Listening, Are You?
NOW OPEN IN CEBU
Your hearing is too important-to you and those around you.
Millions of people suffer unnecessary inconvenience due to their hearing loss. In many cases, you can regain the ability to hear simply by wearing properly fitted hearing aids. Modern hearing aid now cost less than you think - there is a range of prices to suit all budgets. We proudly offer the latest **Siemens** hearing aid technology.
FREE hearing test and consultation.
Call 867-1916 today.
For inquiries outside Metro Manila, call our toll-free number 1-800-10-8671916
RECOGNIZED BY THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY
Sountex
The Hearing Care Professionals
Hearing Solutions from Siemens

Cops hold shipment of rifles

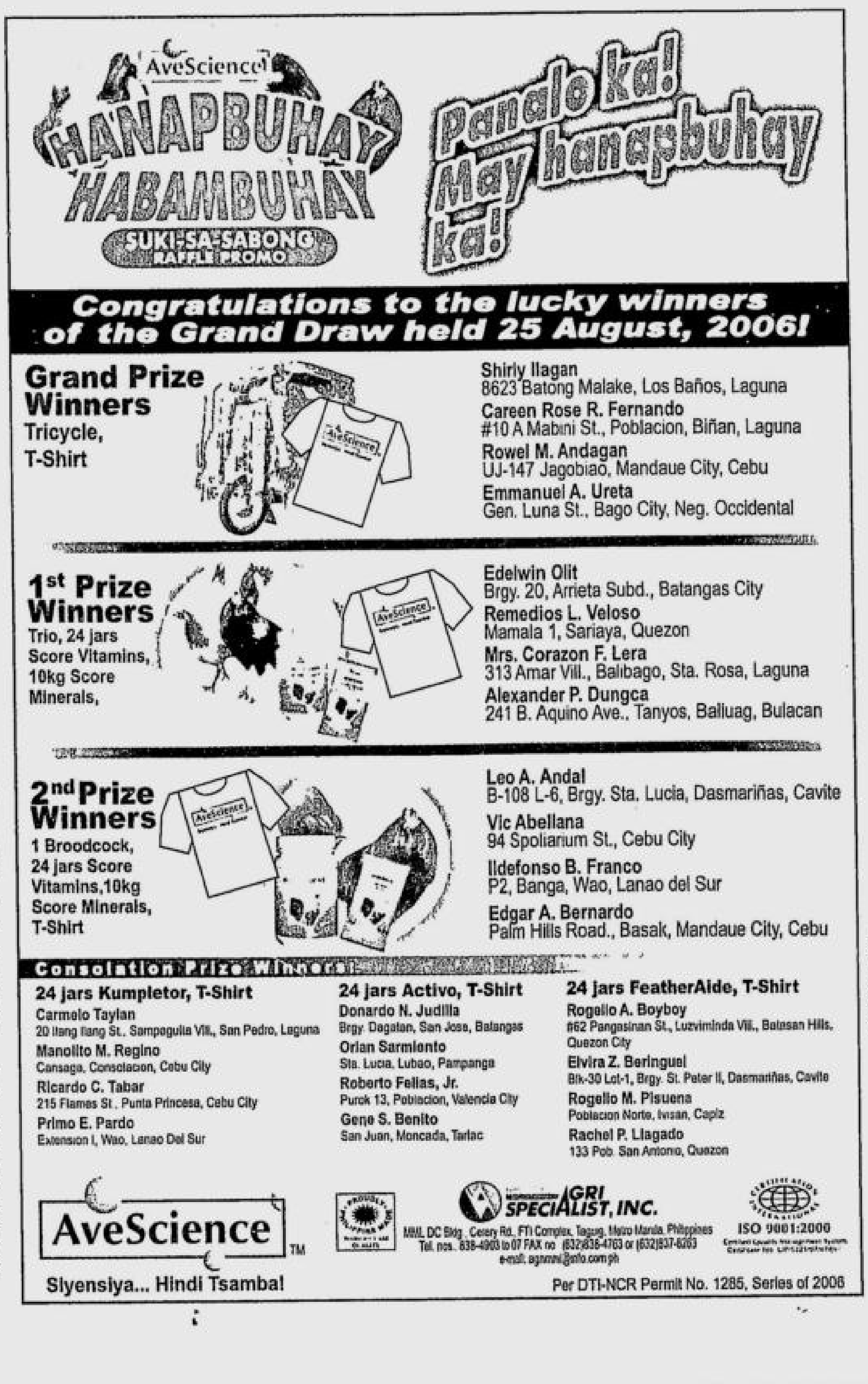
By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—POLICE seized a shipment of rifles brought in an airplane for lack of permits to bring in the guns.

Supt. Jose Cosio Jr., head of the airport's Police Center for Aviation Security in Central Visayas, said the seized shipment included 12 AK-47 assault rifles, two HK-53 submachine guns, an M-16 Armalite rifle and five 12-gauge shotguns.

Also seized were 25 magazines with 680 rounds of ammunition for AK-47, three magazines with 60 rounds of ammunition for M-16, 50 rounds of ammunition for shotguns and four magazines with 40 rounds of ammunition for HK-53.

Cosio said the shipment came from the Kadayawan Security and Investigation Agency based in Davao City and was addressed to the Davao Security and Investigation Agency (Dasia).



AveScience
HANAPBUHAY HABAMBUHAY
SUKI-SA-SABONG RAFFLE PROMO
Panalo ka! May hanapbuhay ka!
Congratulations to the lucky winners of the Grand Draw held 25 August, 2006!

Grand Prize Winners
Tricycle, T-Shirt
Shirly Ilagan
8623 Batong Malake, Los Baños, Laguna
Careen Rose R. Fernando
#10 A Mabini St., Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna
Rowel M. Andagan
UJ-147 Jagobiao, Mandaue City, Cebu
Emmanuel A. Ureta
Gen. Luna St., Bago City, Neg. Occidental

1st Prize Winners
Trio, 24 jars Score Vitamins, 10kg Score Minerals,
Edelwin Olit
Brgy. 20, Arrieta Subd., Batangas City
Remedios L. Veloso
Mamala 1, Sariaya, Quezon
Mrs. Corazon F. Lera
313 Amar Vill., Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Alexander P. Dungca
241 B. Aquino Ave., Tanyos, Baliuag, Bulacan

2nd Prize Winners
1 Broodcock, 24 jars Score Vitamins,10kg Score Minerals, T-Shirt
Leo A. Andal
B-108 L-6, Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Vic Abellana
94 Spoliarium St., Cebu City
Ildefonso B. Franco
P2, Banga, Wao, Lanao del Sur
Edgar A. Bernardo
Palm Hills Road., Basak, Mandaue City, Cebu

Consolation Prize Winners:
24 jars Kumpletor, T-Shirt
Carmelo Taylan
20 Ilang Ilang St., Sampaguita Vill., San Pedro, Laguna
Manolito M. Regino
Cansaga, Consolacion, Cebu City
Ricardo C. Tabar
215 Flames St., Punta Princesa, Cebu City
Primo E. Pardo
Extension I, Wao, Lanao Del Sur
24 jars Activo, T-Shirt
Donardo N. Judilla
Brgy. Dagatan, San Jose, Batangas
Orlan Sarmiento
Sta. Lucia, Lubao, Pampanga
Roberto Felias, Jr.
Purok 13, Poblacion, Valencia City
Gene S. Benito
San Juan, Moncada, Tarlac
24 jars FeatherAide, T-Shirt
Rogelio A. Boyboy
862 Pangasinan St., Luzviminda Vill., Batasan Hills, Quezon City
Elvira Z. Beringuel
Blk-30 Lot-1, Brgy. St. Peter II, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Rogelio M. Pisuena
Poblacion Norte, Ivisan, Capiz
Rachel P. Llagado
133 Pob. San Antonio, Quezon

AveScience™
Siyensiya... Hindi Tsamba!
AGRI SPECIALIST, INC.
MNL DC Bldg., Cetery Rd., FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. nos. 838-4903 to 07 FAX no. (632)838-4763 or (632)837-6263
e-mail: agrmni@info.com.ph
ISO 9001:2000
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1285, Series of 2006

Many Mayon evacuees told to go back home

By Joanna Los Baños
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—SOME EVACUATION centers here have been decamped, reducing the number of evacuees to less than 40,000, even as volcanologists maintained alert level 4 around Mayon due to its continued unrest.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported that evacuees from three barangays in Sto. Domingo and Camalig towns in Albay were asked to go back to their homes earlier while evacuees from two barangays in Daraga were preparing to return to their houses.

Jukes Nuñez, provincial disaster officer, said the evacuees who were asked to decamp live beyond the 8-km extended danger zone.

In Sto. Domingo, the barangay residents who were housed at the San Andres resettlement site and who were asked to return to their homes were from San Isidro, 9.25 km from the crater, and San Fernando, 8.25 km.

In Camalig town, evacuees from Barangay Quirangay who were housed at the Bariw Elementary School were also asked to go home.

The PDCC officers also met with the evacuees from Barangays Salvacion and Miisi in Daraga to prepare them for departure.

As of yesterday, the Office of Civil Defense reported that there were still 8,020 families, or 37,580 persons, in the 29 evacuation centers in the province.

Romeo Cabria, chair of the Sto. Domingo Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council, said the OCD put up prefabricated shelters for the evacuees at the San Andres resettlement site.

He said the OCD had constructed four shelters initially, which could ideally accommodate two to three families per shelter.

He said children and elderly people would be given priority in the shelters.

Lava continued to flow out of the summit of Mayon and the seismic network recorded 275 tremors during the past 24 hours, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) yesterday morning.

Some 30 volcanic earthquakes occurred while the sulfur dioxide emission rate was at 4,640 tons per day which indicated the volcano's high level of unrest and the possibility of a violent eruption, Phivolcs said.

Rumblings from the volcano were reported Sunday at around 8:47 p.m. by residents of Barangays Matanag in Legazpi and Basud in Sto. Domingo; and at the Lignon Hill Observatory.

An ash puff about 100 meters high occurred from the summit crater at around 6:25 a.m. on Monday.

RESIDENTS board a military truck in preparation for their homecoming after several weeks in evacuation centers that were put up to shelter villagers in danger of Mayon's restiveness.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project /Brief Description	One (1) Lot Data Resource Center Monitoring Console and IT Laboratory Equipment per BSP Scope of Work and Specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 10,000,000.00
Project Completion	Within ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract.

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project/s within the last five (5) years with a cumulative amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 August – 21 September 2006 (up to 2 p.m. only)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	22 September 2006, 9:30 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	10 October 2006, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – August 29, 2006)

Southcom chief's swan song: Not guilty on Garci

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"MY CONSCIENCE is clear, at the end of the day I am only answerable to God," Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon said of the "Hello Garci" scandal that dragged his name into charges that President Macapagal-Arroyo stole the 2004 elections with the help of former Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Habacon retired yesterday as the 27th and the last commander of the military's Southern Command.

Southcom was deactivated after more than 30 years of being the country's largest military installation, to give way to the creation of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) based in this city and the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom), which will be based in Davao City.

Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo heads Westmincom, while Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Obaniana is head of Eastmincom.

As he stepped down as the last Southcom commander, Habacon said his reputation remained untarnished.

Saying he did not do anything unlawful during the 2004 elections, Habacon said he could walk with his head up high.

"I am not affected by the allegations. I just don't mind them although I know that my family has been affected. I told them that nothing should be ashamed of because I am not guilty," he said.

Habacon said he had learned to accept that criticisms were part of life.

"There are always ups and downs, but the most important thing is you will continue to fight the challenges," he said.

Instead of harboring ill-feelings against his detractors, mostly politicians, Habacon said he understood them.

"Besides, we cannot change their minds, they have made their decisions and you cannot please them," he said. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

EARTH WORK Pupils of the [illegible] Place-Assumption-Baguio and alumni members of the Associate Missionaries of the Assumption gather for a tree planting activity at the Crystal Cave in Baguio City. The tree planting was part of the group's 20th anniversary and alumni homecoming.

[illegible] SOBERANO
INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Republic of the Philippines

Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software

The **Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA)**, through the 2006 Corporate Budget for the contract approved by its governing Boards intends to apply the sum of **Four Million One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Pesos & 00/100 (Php 4,127,000.00)** detailed below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening:

Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software — **Php 4,127,000.00**

The **BCDA** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software** for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project. Delivery of **GOODS** is required by November 29, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions To Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from **BCDA** and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payments of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00)** and proof that the bidder is duly registered with Department of Budget and Management-Electronic Procurement System (DBM-EPS). The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **BCDA** will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 11, 2006, 1:30 p.m at Operations Conference Rooms A & B, 2F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Tel No. (02) 816-6666.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 12:00 noon on September 25, 2006. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Lot to be Bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank guarantee	One & a half percent (1 & ½%)
Surety Bond	Two & a half percent (2&1/2%)

Bid opening shall be on September 25, 2006 at 1:30 p.m at Operations Conference Rooms A & B, 2F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bases Conversion & Development Authority (BCDA)
2F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street,
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Secretariat: Ms. Nancy Paje
Tel No. (02) 816-6666 loc 122
Tele Fax No. (02) 816-1083

(Sgd.) Victor V. Zablan
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee for SCTEP

(PDI - August 29 & Sept 05 2006)

RP's elderly population to hit 9.4M by 2010

DAVAO CITY—THE COUNTRY'S elderly population is expected to hit 9.4 million by 2010, but government programs to make them feel they are part of society are not enough, an official of the National Statistics Office (NSO) said.

The NSO said that based on its May 2000 survey, there are about 4.6 million elderly Filipinos—those 60 years old and above. More than half are women.

Benedicta Yabut, officer in charge of the NSO's demographic and social statistics division, said the majority of the country's aging population felt they were no longer part of society.

This could be due to the lack of services aimed at the so-called gray population, she said.

"This early, there should be plans for the elderly like social security benefits, especially for those who are self-employed," Yabut said.

In Southern Mindanao, the elderly population is 5-5.7 percent in 2000 and is projected to increase by up to 10 percent beginning 2010.

"By 2040, the country's elderly population would increase by 16 percent," Yabut said, citing the NSO data.

Yabut said studies showed that elderly Filipinos were considered assets, not liabilities, because they could still do house chores or look after children.

But as they grow old, they could only depend on help from relatives.

"At this stage, everyone should think of the retirement and other social security benefits for the elders," Yabut said. *Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

Medicine shortage traced to small fund release

ILAGAN, ISABELA—THE PROVINCIAL board's health committee said only P3.34 million of the P12.8 million appropriated for medicines and medical supplies this year has been spent, causing a shortage of medicines in at least seven government-run hospitals in Isabela.

Board Member Josephine Baggao-Borromeo, health committee chair, said more than P9 million remained in the budget, as reflected by records from January to July 31 this year.

"With barely four months left this year, more than half of the funds should have been disbursed to meet the needs of patients," Borromeo said.

Alfredo Mendoza, provincial general services officer, said only P1.96 million of the P3.28-million allotment was spent for the Faustino Dy Hospital in Ilagan town.

Mendoza said expenses for medicines and supplies in other provincial government-run hospitals were: P310,530 (out of P1.68 million) for the Cauayan District Hospital; P356,159 (out of P1.64 million) for the Manuel Roxas District Hospital; P307,936 (out of P1.19 million) for the Milagros District Hospital; P360,746 (out of P1.14 million) for the Echague District Hospital; P21,068 (out of P178,932) for the Palanan Station Hospital; and P31,382 (out of P318,617) for the San Mariano Hospital.

Borromeo said her committee would continue investigating the medicine shortage before it submitted a final recommendation to the board to solve the problem.

In the recent committee hearing, provincial administrator Maria Theresa Flores said the "lack of foresight" of hospital chiefs to ensure that their hospitals have enough medicines and supplies, especially during emergency cases, could be one of the causes of the problem.

Flores said the provincial government had initiated an "express lane system" to speed up the purchase of hospital supplies.

But Dr. Oscar Caballero, chief of the Cauayan District Hospital, said the purchase had been delayed by the slow processing of required documents at the provincial capitol.

Caballero said hospital chiefs should not be blamed as they had been following up these documents with the concerned offices. *Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Microbes can help rid seas of black sludge

From page A1

through a process called biodegradation, but it takes a long time. The introduction of organisms known as bioremediation can hasten the biodegradation of the black sludge that has tainted some 220 km of shoreline.

The corporate arm of the DENR said it would ask Petron Corp., the oil refiner that chartered the MT Solar I that sank on Aug. 11 while carrying 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil, to purchase from the United States a bioreactor that can produce the Pristine Sea product brand of microbes at a rate of 100 million/ml.

A medium-sized machine costs $500,000 or roughly P25.5 million, according to Natural Resources Development Corp.

"We're working very fast because we recognize the urgency of the problem ... This is an investment in infrastructure ... If we get this machine, we can address oil spills immediately," NRDC president Ray Francis C. Alcoseba said at a press conference.

Alcoseba said he would advise Petron to buy smaller bioreactor machines. DENR and NRDC officials are setting a meeting with the oil company within the week.

Bioreactor machines have been used in the United States and Venezuela to clean up oil spills, according to Alcoseba.

Fertilizer

Bioremediation through the application of fertilizer has also been used in Alaska, where an oil spill affected a beach, said Jose Ingles, a marine biologist from the World Wild Fund for Nature.

The nitrogen and phosphorous from the fertilizer allowed the growth of bacteria after several months and hastened the cleanup.

But Ingles said some remedial measures were destroying organisms. "The use of detergents and high-pressure water create more damage in some instances, and it's creating a lot of waste," he said.

More serious threat

A much more serious ecological problem lurks deep in the waters off Guimaras as a result of the oil spill, said Dr. Perry Ong, a professor of biology at the University of the Philippines.

As authorities rush to contain several kilometers of oil slick on the surface of the sea, bunker fuel residue threatens to kill marine life below unless the government acts soon, he said.

"What I'm talking about is something that we don't see so nobody's talking about it. And if it's not being talked about, how can we come up with a solution?" he said at a press conference on the oil spill crisis.

"While getting rid of the oil on the surface is not easy, we can see it and we know what to do about it. Its the residue that remains down below that we haven't talked about yet," Ong said.

Scientists left out

Ong lamented that scientists like him were often left out in the discussions that needed their expertise.

"It's very rare that scientists are involved in discourses like this," he said. "We even have to compete for attention just to be heard."

He urged the government and other stakeholders to tap chemists, biologists, oceanographers and other experts who can provide a complete picture of the problem and offer a viable solution.

Planktons under threat

Ong said the oil slick on the surface and its residue below were practically choking the life out of microscopic plants (phytoplanktons) and microscopic animals (zooplanktons).

He warned that the slick would eventually mix with sea water and emulsify, forming a thick layer that would appear like chocolate mousse.

With the emulsion preventing sunlight from reaching the depths of the sea, phytoplanktons won't be able to synthesize carbon dioxide and water to produce oxygen in a process called photosynthesis, he said.

As it is, the black portion of the oil slick was already impeding the entry of sunlight, causing damage to the microscopic plants and animals, according to Ong. The oxygen still under water would eventually be depleted as a result of the oil spill.

"It's like being choked under the sea," the biologist said.

Food chain

Because phytoplanktons would not be able to produce food and oxygen, the species next in the food chain, the microscopic animals, would starve and eventually affect fish and whale sharks, according to the scientist.

"In the end, humans would have nothing to eat anymore," he said.

But all is not lost. "The water undergoes some sort of a healing process," Ong said, referring to natural processes that involve "percolation and thermocline."

But he asked people involved in the cleanup to be cautious in using booms to contain the oil spill.

While the booms prevent the spread of the slick, the areas where oil is concentrated would harm marine life, he said.

"You have to be very quick and flexible. As you prevent oil from further spreading, you have to stir it so you won't be stuck in one place," Ong said.

While stirring won't remove the oil slick, it would prevent the bunker fuel from coagulating. The cleaning process, he said, could get help from oil-eating bacteria found in the sea.

French group

A French nongovernment organization has offered to help in the cleanup of the oil spill, using state-of-the art "depolluting" equipment, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

The Groupe de Secours Catastrophe Français (GSCF) "extended the offer upon learning of the declaration of President Macapagal-Arroyo of a statement of calamity" in Guimaras, the DFA said, quoting Philippine Ambassador to France Jose Zaide in his report to the DFA home office.

The group consists of firefighters who assist in emergency situations and natural disasters.

Zaide said the GSCF was in Manila in 2004 to help in the relief and rescue operations after a series of strong typhoons battered several provinces in the country. *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

IN THE KNOW

How the microbes work

PRISTINE SEA ACTS ON OIL spills using biosorbent technology—a combination of absorbents, microbes and nutrients, according to the website of Marine Systems, a division of the product's manufacturer Fluid Tech Inc.

Absorbents capture and control the oil while microbes degrade hydrocarbons into carbon dioxide, water and fatty acids. Nutrients supply nitrogen and phosphorous to stimulate microbial growth.

Pristine Sea I, which is a chemically treated natural clay, solidifies the oil and breaks up the oil slick into "oil cakes" that remain afloat until recovered. These semisolid "oil cakes" keep the oil in and bar the oil from escaping into the water.

Pristine Sea II is a bioremediation product that consists of natural bacteria "having an affinity for organic liquids."

In a technical product bulletin, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported that Pristine Sea II was "no longer being manufactured." The EPA, however, noted that the product "is expected to be effective in the degradation of refinery and petrochemical wastes."

In a 2003 review of oil spill countermeasures, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration described Pristine Sea II as a "biological additive, powder or liquid bacterial mixture" that is nonsoluble in water and can be used in both fresh and salt water.

Pristine I and II may be applied through the use of either large or handheld blowers. Marine Systems suggests that an application of about 1 kg of Pristine Sea product be applied for every four gallons of oil spilled. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

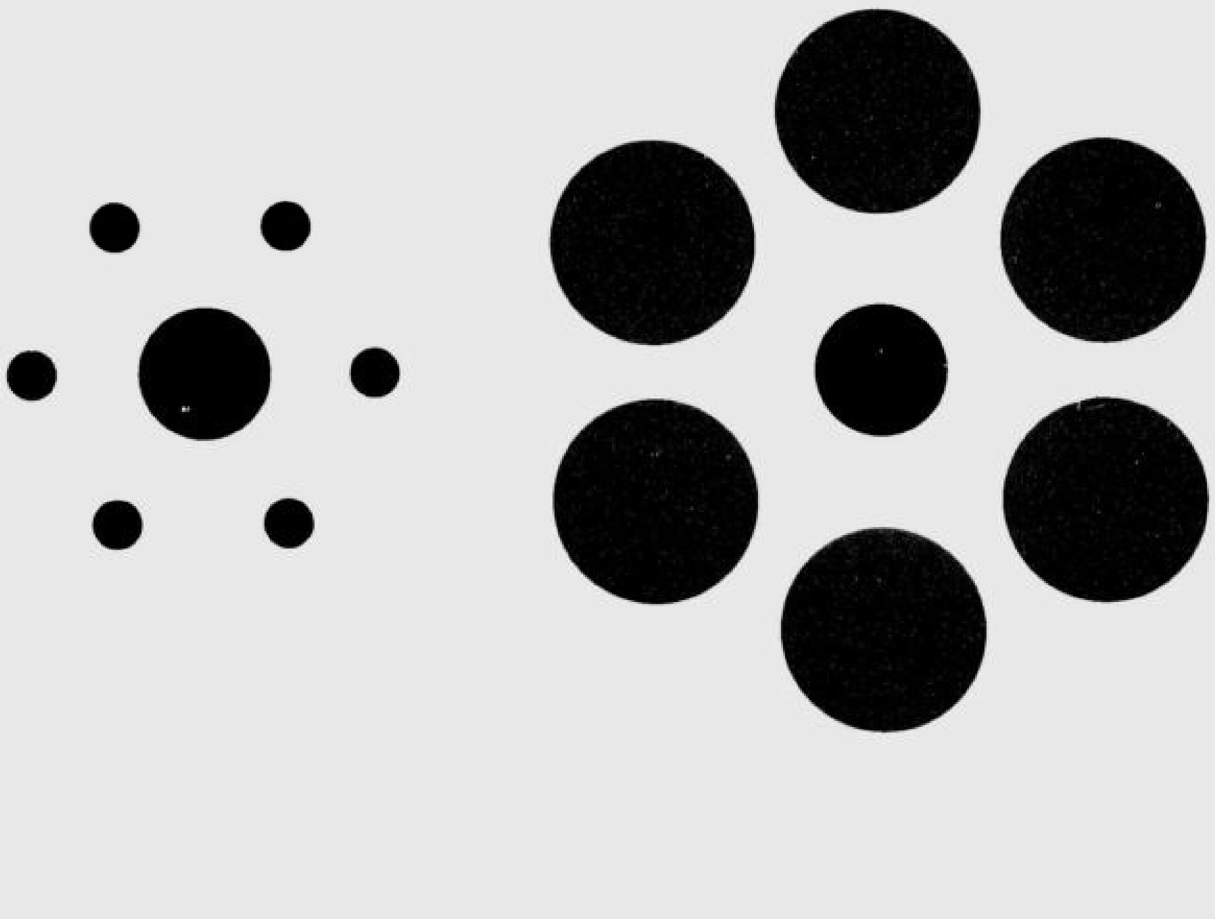
THERAPEUTIC HEATING PAD

* Fits all body parts
* Size 15in.x 25in.
* 3 level heat control
* Washable, 220volts

Fast Relief from Backaches & Pains like:
LUMBAGO, SPONDYLISIS, RHEUMATISM, ARTHRITIS, FROZEN SHOULDER and person suffering from STRAINED LIMBS, PULL MUSCLES ETC..

DESMO ENTERPRISE #25 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City Tel. 687-1385, 631-9264

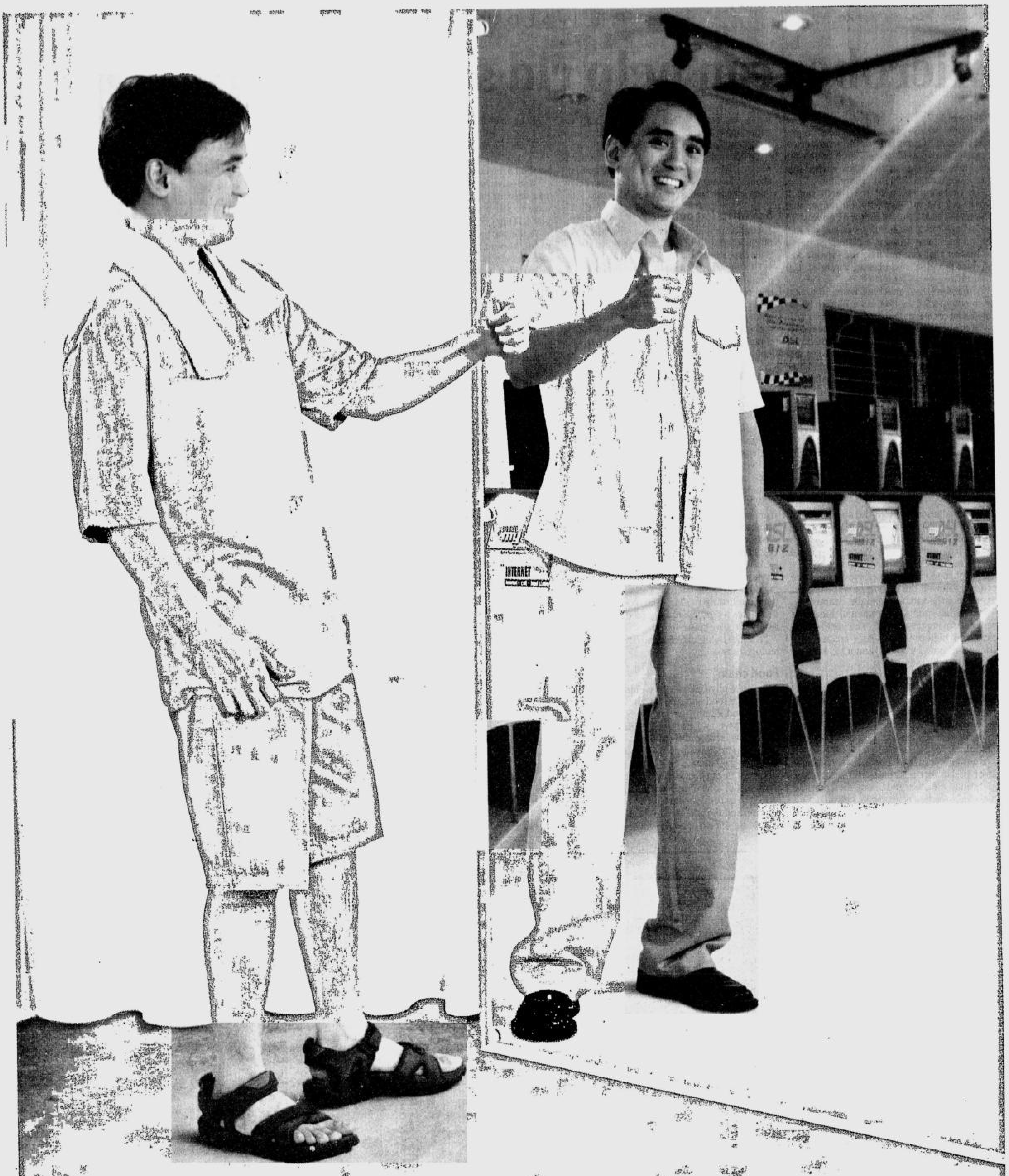
Which middle circle is bigger?



If television appears to be a bigger medium, think again.

Believe in the power of print.
UNITED PRINT MEDIA GROUP

UPMG



Look like a million bucks thanks to your new internet café business.

Kung gusto mo magtayo ng bagong business o naghahanap ka ng mas malakas na negosyo, may plan na bagay sa'yo.

PLDT myDSL INTERNET CAFE+ Internet • call • load station

With an initial capital of only ₱35,000, on the road to success ka na sa tulong ng Internet Café Plus ng Internet Café Negosyo Bundle. Kasama sa business plan na ito ang software, equipment and maintenance service. Also available ang SMART Bro Computer Station, the single-PC set-up powered by SMART Bro. Lahat ng kailangan mo para umasenso nasa Internet Café Negosyo Bundle.

	SMART Bro Computer Station	PLDT myDSL Internet Café Plus
Number of PCs	1	5 to 30
Minimum Downpayment	₱2,600*	₱35,000**
Monthly Amortization	₱2,600 x 12 (months)	Flexible financing schemes available
Qualifications	Qualified SMART Retailer and non SMART Retailer (subject to credit guidelines)	Qualified applicants based on credit screening and site evaluation
Included in Set-Up	SMART Bro Computer Station SMART Bro Broadband Installation	Computers, tables and chairs*** PC Networking and DSL Install * Revenue from PLDT and SMART Products * Training for Employees * PLDT/SMART Merchandise * Pre-installed Ragnarok, Pangya, Flyff, Freestyle, RF Online and Rose Games
How to apply	SMART Wireless Center PLDT Business Office	101-888

*SMART Bro prices are VAT inclusive ** PLDT myDSL IC Plus prices subject to government taxes and PC Insurance *** While supplies last

INTERNET CAFE NEGOSYO BUNDLE

genuine Microsoft Software

everything online

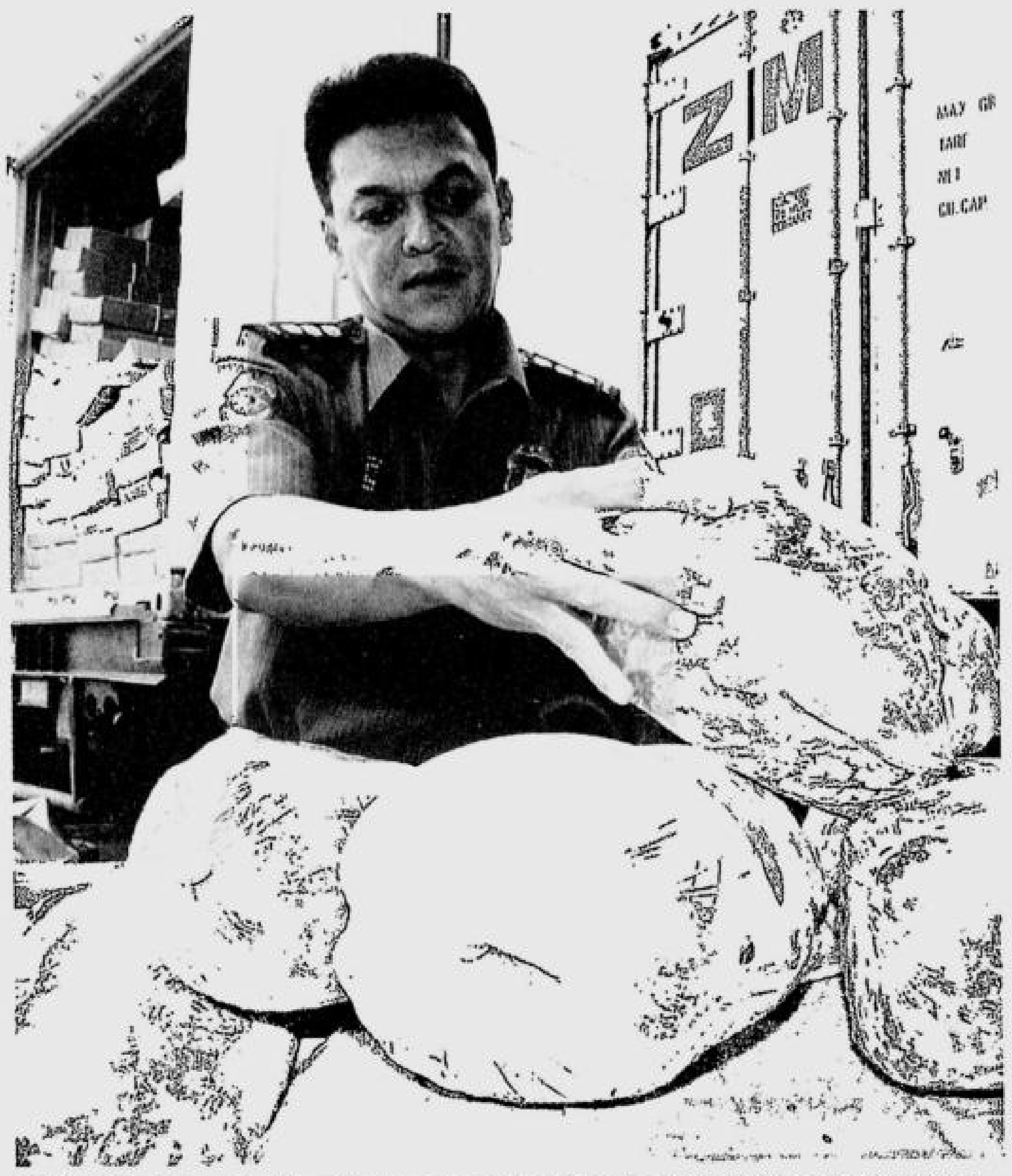
No other offer ever looked this good!

Call 101-888!*

*Toll Free. Call from your SMART or PLDT phone.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Hot meat from China seized



SENIOR Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro, of the national police's antismuggling task force, inspects the shipment of frozen meat products from China seized last week at a Manila port.
JOAN BONDOC

₱11.2-M shipment's seals found intact; insiders' role eyed

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE HAVE SEIZED FOUR trucks full of frozen meat from China, just as they were leaving a port in Manila, officials said yesterday.

"They're banned items. This would fall under unfair trade competition because they would be sold at lower prices compared to the prevailing market value," said Senior Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro, an officer with the Philippine National Police's anti-smuggling task force.

Police estimated the cost of the shipment at P11.2 million. Investigators believe the frozen meat items were taken out of the port area through the help of customs officers.

Proof

Their seals were intact, meaning they did not go through supposedly strict examination procedures at the Bureau of Customs, police said in a statement.

A fifth van, which the police believe was carrying misdeclared or undervalued goods, was also apprehended.

Agents first seized the 40-foot van at around 8 p.m. on Aug. 25 in a port in Manila.

The following day, police also stopped the four other trucks full of refrigerated meat products as these were being driven out of the port.

Under surveillance

The operations spanned two days of surveillance operations, police said.

"The vans were found to contain frozen pork and chicken worth P11.2 million," the task force said in a statement.

Charges of violating the country's laws on tariff were being prepared against the shipment's consignees and brokers.

"The Task Force is also looking into the possibility that some customs personnel are in cahoots with the people involved in the shipment of these prohibited goods, considering that the seals of the container vans are still intact, meaning they did not pass through the supposed 100 percent examination at the Bureau of Customs," a police statement quoted PNP chief Director General Oscar Calderon as saying.

WHAT'S INSIDE

THE CARILLON
THE BELLS RING
THE BALLS SWING
PROUD ACADEMIC FREEDOM
SUBSIDY EDUCATION
OBLE
SA OBLATION RUN

▩ **UP students** stage 'special edition' of Oblation Run /A18

▩ **Cook killed in fire** that gutted Makati restaurant /A18

▩ **Environmental advocates** to hold bird festival /A18

▩ **Makati City 'safe and secure,'** says Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno /A18

▩ **Dennis Roldan** hires new lawyer /A18

Hardwork, honesty and sacrifice are the ingredients of Aileen Lazo's success story, which will not be complete without BPI Family Savings Bank.

It all started with those delicious chorizos that Mrs. Aileen Lazo used to make and sell to her friends and neighbors to earn extra income. Never did she expect that those little chorizos would become everyone's "darling" and be the start of something really big.

"I thought it was a promising business. So I decided to go to TESDA and learn more about food processing", the amiable Mrs. Lazo said. Then in 1988, her small business expanded and acquired a most appropriate name – Darling Foods. She started marketing her products in a couple of supermarkets in Cagayan De Oro and became very successful.

Darling Foods' product range expanded and consumer demand grew tremendously. *"We needed to increase our production. That's why we sought the help of* BPI Family Savings Bank's *Grow Your SME Business Loan"*, she describes. The loan amount that they got was used to buy more food processing machines that tripled their production.

Today, Mrs. Lazo's Darling Foods is one of Mindanao's most successful food manufacturing companies. It has received numerous marketing and business awards. It now carries more than sixteen kinds of meat products that survive intense competition from other brands. Mrs. Lazo is beaming with pride, *"To succeed, we need hardwork, honesty, faith in God – and help from* BPI Family Savings Bank."

Darling

Get started on growing your business today.

For more information, call 754-6880 or 89-100, log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com or visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you.

your BUSINESS LOAN

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow

Provincial Business Centers:
Bacolod : (034) 435-0639 • Cagayan de Oro : (088) 856-2902 • Cebu : (032) 231-3097 • Dagupan : (075) 523-4679 • Davao : (082) 235-3560 • Iloilo : (033) 337-8025 • Lipa : (043) 757-1000 • Naga : (054) 811-1042 • Pampanga : (045) 961-7795 • San Pablo : (049) 562-0364

Makati City 'safe and secure,' says DILG's Puno

By Norman Bordadora

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO Puno yesterday said Makati City remains safe and secure despite the recent pullout of an elite police force and the continued vacancy in the city's top police post.

"We want to assure Mayor (Jejomar Binay) that Makati is safe and secure under the protection of the Southern Police District. It's not just the Makati police securing the city," Puno added.

Binay had earlier claimed that businessmen were worried about security in the city following the pullout last month of members of the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force.

Also last month, Makati police chief, Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio suddenly took a leave of absence. His deputy, Supt. Felipe Napoles Jr., was appointed officer in charge pending the appointment of a permanent replacement.

Binay had said that businessmen in the city were concerned that these recent developments could leave Makati vulnerable to criminal and terrorist attacks.

"I don't know which business groups he has been talking to because we are always in contact with the business community," Puno said in a news conference.

Puno, as secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, has supervision over the PNP. He also chairs the National Police Commission.

Choosing a permanent chief of police takes time and the absence of one was not unique to Makati, he added.

DID YOU KNOW

THE CITY of Las Piñas—home to the world famous Bamboo Organ—was a fishing village that became a town in 1762 under the Spanish government. Administration of the town was later turned over to the Recollect religious order. In 1907, Las Piñas was proclaimed an independent municipality under the Philippine Commission Act No. 1625. It also became part of the Metropolitan Manila area in 1976. More than two decades later, in 1997, it became a city by virtue of Republic Act 8251. Latest figures show there are 472,780 residents in the city.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

New lawyers hired to defend Roldan

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR ALMOST A MONTH, HIS search proved futile. But finally, former congressman and actor Dennis Roldan found a new defense team for the kidnapping charges he is facing.

According to the formal entry of appearance filed in the Pasig Regional Trial Court yesterday, Roldan will be represented by Salatander and Associates Law Office.

His new defense team also asked Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio to give their client 10 more days to file his comments on the two motions the prosecution had filed, including the one which had questioned the judge's decision allowing Roldan to post bail.

Roldan is accused of kidnapping a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy last year. Kidnapping is a nonbailable offense, but in her decision Carpio said prosecution evidence presented against Roldan so far in the trial was weak.

A few days after the judge granted bail, Roldan's former lawyers Sigfrid Fortun and Karl Castillo withdrew from the case without giving the court any reason. Two weeks ago, the prosecution filed a motion for partial reconsideration as well as a motion asking Carpio to inhibit herself from the case.

Roldan's new counsel should have filed their comments yesterday but instead, they asked the court for more time, saying Fortun had yet to turn over records of the case to them.

"The accused is again constrained to ask for another extension of at least 10 days from Aug. 28 or until Sept. 8 within which to file the said comment/opposition in order to give his counsel ample time to study the records of the case and prepare an exhaustive and intelligible comment/opposition," they added.

Carpio had originally given Roldan 10 days to find a new lawyer after Fortun and Castillo dropped his case.

The law office defending Roldan is no stranger to high-profile cases. It has defended Ruben Ecleo Jr. of the Philippine Benevolent Association who is facing parricide charges for allegedly killing his wife in January 2002.

A PREDOMINANTLY female crowd watches members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity which held a special edition of the Oblation Run yesterday. Participants said the affair was dedicated to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who recently called the University of the Philippines a breeding ground for destabilizers and naked men running around. RAFFY LERMA

UP students stage 'special edition' of Oblation Run

By DJ Yap

IF ONLY THEIR BODIES COULD TALK, they would have a lot to say to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Fifteen young men in their birthday suits yesterday staged a "special edition" of their yearly Oblation Run at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

But unlike previous runs, yesterday's "Ritual Dance of the Brave" was dedicated to one person: Gonzalez.

"We want to show him (Gonzalez) what Oblation Run really means. It's not plain exhibitionism. We just want to call attention to issues facing UP and the nation," said Max Quijano, grand chancellor of UP Alphi Phi Omega fraternity, the organizer.

The fraternity was reacting to statements made by Gonzalez over the weekend describing the state university as a "breeding ground" of destabilizers and naked men running around the campus.

Gonzalez had said of APO: "I doff my hat to them because they initiate the running of naked people ... That's also one kind of culture that they develop there."

Quijano said the justice secretary's statements painted an almost sordid picture of the Oblation Run, contrary to the spirit of free thought and scholastic independence that it seeks to preserve.

"When we run, we're upholding academic freedom. This is not about UP having lost its values and morals. It's about the students fighting for what they believe in," Quijano said.

"The Oblation Run has become almost like a tradition at UP. It's an event in which we make a stand about issues involving not just the students, but the Filipino people," he added.

He said the fraternity held an emergency meeting on Sunday to address Gonzalez's remarks. It was decided at the meeting that a special Oblation Run would be staged to show the UP community that the fraternity was not going to take the justice secretary's remarks sitting down, Quijano said.

Though the fraternity members had little time to publicize the event, hundreds of students still turned up at the Palma Hall for a glimpse of the streakers.

Cameras flashed and shrieks filled the air when the fraternity men streamed into the hall at past noon. Marshals surrounded the streakers and kept them a safe distance away from the crowd, which numbered about 500.

With only white shirts covering their faces, the young men ran around the hall with raised fists as onlookers cheered them on. They ran around twice on the ground floor before converging at their "*tambayan*" (hangout) where they sang their fraternity song.

Just before they arrived, student leaders led the crowd in chanting slogans such as "*Edukasyon, edukasyon, karapatan ng mamamayan* (Education, the people's right)."

University Student Council chair Juan Paolo Alfonso said Gonzalez's statements could foreshadow a renewed "clampdown" on militant activism on campus.

"Perhaps his statements are meant to justify future plans of repression here. That may even include decreasing the already low state subsidy for the UP system," he said.

"The UP gives us an independent, nationalist education. Here, we're only taught what is true, and we fight only for what we believe to be true. If they call that destabilization, then it's probably they who are trying to cover up the truth," Alfonso added.

He said that UP students do not owe the government anything, since the funding it receives comes from the purses of taxpayers—the people that graduates of the university should serve.

The Oblation Run started as a prank in 1977 when five members ran on the campus wearing nothing but masks to promote the fraternity-sponsored play, "Hubad na Bayani" (Naked Hero), a political satire on Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorial rule. Since then, the run has become a highly anticipated event, attracting hundreds of students and visitors every year.

Last year, the run generated a minor controversy when two naked young women wearing wigs and masks suddenly appeared and posed for cameras. They carried placards saying: "Equal rights for women." APO later said they had no hand in the women's appearance, adding that the fraternity did not sanction women streakers.

In 2000, the naked runners called for the resignation of then President Estrada. The Oblation Run has also become an avenue of protest for such issues as fraternity violence, illegal drugs and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Environment advocates to hold bird festival

By Tina G. Santos

IN A BID TO RAISE AWARENESS about the various winged species in the country, enthusiasts and environment advocates will be staging the 2nd Bird Festival next month.

This time, the focus of the festival, which has the theme "Endemik: Dito lang sa Pinas," will be on conserving the country's endemic bird species, promoting bird watching as a hobby and the responsible appreciation of nature, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines president Michael Lu said.

"Through the festival, we want to educate the children, the next generation of Filipinos, about the environment, especially about Philippine birds," he told INQUIRER.

"There will be photo and art exhibits, films and lectures about bird watching, and many other activities for the kids and students, like face-painting, shadow puppetry and storytelling," Lu said.

He added that the two-day event, which will be held on Sept. 22 and 23, likewise hopes to promote public interest in conservation and encourage the creation of more urban parks and green spaces.

"Birds are as important as any other species," he said. "They symbolize peace, hope and life. More importantly, they are a reflection of how man treats his environment."

"But sadly here, we don't care about birds. Ask any Filipino at random to name at least 10 birds and they can definitely not mention anything beyond the *maya* and the *pipit*," Lu said.

The Philippines is home to more than 570 species of birds, 180 of which can only be found in the country, including the Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker and the White-Eared Brown Dove which are present in a number of parks and wooded areas in the heart of Metro Manila.

"These are the things we don't know we're missing," Lu said. "Nature has an entirely different way of entertaining us."

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development - Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-75-78; (054) 473-89-36
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-89-36, (054) 473-7578, (054) 8112227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER, through General Appropriations Act intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:
   a) Project: Procurement of Various Groceries (IAEB No. 2006-010)
      Approved Budget for the Contract: TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR PESOS ONLY (PhP2,989,664.00) (GAA CY 2006)
      Sale of Bid Documents August 21 to September 21, 2006
      Pre-Bid Conference September 21, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
      Bid Opening October 3, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   b) Project: Procurement of Janitorial Services for C/Y 2007 (IAEB No. 2006-012)
      Approved Budget for the Contract: FIVE MILLION PESOS ONLY (PhP 5,000,000.00) (GAA CY 2007)
      Sale of Bid Documents August 21 to September 22, 2006
      Pre-Bid Conference September 22, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
      Bid Opening : October 4, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   c) Project: Procurement of Security Services for C/Y 2007 (IAEB No. 2006-013)
      Approved Budget for the Contract: THREE MILLION PESOS ONLY (PhP3,000,000.00) (GAA CY 2007)
      Sale of Bid Documents August 21 to September 22, 2006
      Pre-Bid Conference September 22, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
      Bid Opening : October 4, 2006 – 2:00 P.M. BMC Library
      Bids received in excess of theABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening
2. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of Groceries will commence after receipt of notice to proceed, schedule of requirements will be on a monthly basis until completed. Security and Janitorial Services will be effective beginning January 1, 2007 until December 31, 2007. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BICOL MEDICAL CENTER and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon; 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Document for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP 1,500.00). The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
   1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)
   2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)
   3. GSIS Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)
   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address: BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-7578; (054) 473-8936
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-8936; (054) 811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm
Contact Person: ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Aug. 23 & 29, 2006)

ELECTRONIC ROLL ADS LIGHT BOX
ATTENTION:
MALL OWNERS / ADVERTISING AGENCIES
Product Features
- Easy to maintain
- Multi-picture Ads
- Advanced advertising technology
- Backlighted
TechnoAds Incorporated
#1527 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. CUBAO QUEZON CITY TEL.: 724-3377 / TELEFAX: 726-6220

METROBRIEFS

Police official sacked

A POLICE community precinct (PCP) commander of the Manila Police District (MPD) was relieved yesterday for failing to prevent the proliferation of illegal gambling in his area. MPD acting director Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa ordered the relief of Senior Insp. Ricardo Jaime and said the move was in accordance with the "one-strike policy" of Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon. Jaime, former chief of the Simon, Basilio, Maceda (Sibama) PCP, was sacked following the arrest of two suspects involved in the operation of illegal video *karera* machines in Sampaloc, Manila. The suspects were identified as Jonathan Manganti, 26, and William Estoesta, 57, both of 1308 Crisostomo St., Sampaloc. Jaime, who had served as Sibama PCP chief for a week, will be replaced by Insp. Restituto Paz.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Fire kills cook

A FIRE believed to have been caused by a gas tank explosion left a man dead and damaged around P1 million worth of property yesterday. Killed was Efren Valdez, 20, the cook of the Tapa King fastfood restaurant on P. Burgos Street, Barangay Poblacion in Makati City. Chief Insp. Rogelio Bucayu, Makati Fire Station officer in charge, said Valdez suffered burns in the face although the cause of his death has yet to be determined. Initial investigation showed that the blaze began at around 8:40 a.m. in the restaurant's kitchen. "Based on the report, there was an explosion. There could have been a leak from the gas tank and when the stove was switched on, it might have exploded," Bucayu told the INQUIRER, citing initial information gathered by arson probers. Two other establishments beside the restaurant were damaged.

Tarra V. Quismundo

Blaze hits factory

FIRE hit a furniture factory in Caloocan City yesterday morning, damaging P250,000 worth of furnishings. Chief Insp. Juan T. Reyes, city fire marshal, said the blaze began at around 6:50 a.m. at the Sunlight Furniture factory on Namie Street, near 4th Avenue. "There were lots of wood and light materials inside the factory," Reyes said. The fire spread to the building beside the factory, displacing three families . Nobody was reported hurt.

Nancy C. Carvajal

US soldiers secure the site of a car bomb attack outside the office of the state-run newspaper in Baghdad Aug. 27. REUTERS

4 blasts rock Turkish resort, Istanbul

ISTANBUL—FOUR SEPARATE BOMBS at a popular Turkish coastal resort and in the country's commercial hub Istanbul wounded at least 27 people, including 10 British tourists, authorities said on Monday.

Ten Britons and 11 Turks were wounded when their minibus blew up on one of the main streets of Marmaris, a busy tourist town on the Mediterranean coast. The British Foreign Office said three of the Britons were in intensive care.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility.

A Marmaris police official, who declined to be named, said 21 people were injured in Marmaris, including 16 people inside the minibus. Five others were hurt by two percussion bombs—all three explosions happened within 15 minutes.

"There were three bombs... Two of them were not important, they were percussion bombs," he said, adding the outlawed separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) was suspected of carrying out the attacks.

The bombs in Marmaris exploded between midnight and 12:15 a.m. local time while the Istanbul blast, which injured six people, took place at 6:30 p.m. local time.

Marmaris is a coastal resort popular with west European and Russian tourists as well as Turks—for many the last weekend of their annual summer holiday.

Ambulances and police cars were at the scene of the explosions. Police explosives experts wearing white suits were inspecting the blast sites in Marmaris while local Governor Temel Kocaklar said the perpetrators would be caught swiftly.

Istanbul police chief Celalettin Cerrah said six people had been injured when a device exploded near a school in Istanbul's Bagcilar district.

"They left a package on a road against the garden wall... At around 10:30 p.m. it exploded and six citizens were injured," Cerrah told state-run Anatolian news agency, but did not provide further details.

"We have four British casualties. All four have burns and lacerations from the explosion in the lower extremities," said Suzanne Poyraz, a spokeswoman at Caria private hospital in Marmaris. Others had been taken to other hospitals.

"None of them are serious... they're quite badly shocked."

Kurdish separatists, leftists and Islamic militants have carried out bomb attacks in Turkey in the past. The tourist industry is a powerful motor of the Turkish economy, hoping to reach $20 billion in revenues and 26 million visitors this year.

Reuters

Suicide bomb attack on Iraq ministry amid torrid 24 hours

BAGHDAD—A SUICIDE CAR BOMBER struck at the nerve center of Iraq's embattled security forces on Monday, killing 14 people and injuring 45 more in an attack on the interior ministry.

The attack came as Interior Minister Jawad Bolani was due to hold a meeting with police chiefs, and capped off a torrid 24 hours of carnage in which more than 60 Iraqis and five American soldiers had already been killed.

A security official told AFP that eight police commandos were among those killed when the bomber detonated his cargo of explosives near a checkpoint outside the ministry's tightly-guarded compound in downtown Baghdad.

The blast was the latest blow to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's campaign to convince Iraqis and the world that his government and security forces are up to the task of bringing peace to his bitterly divided country.

"The violence is on the decrease, and our security ability is increasing," Maliki said in an interview Sunday with CNN. "I want to assure he who loves Iraq that Iraq will never be in a civil war."

As he spoke, however, the death toll was mounting across the country as members of the three biggest of Iraq's rival ethno-religious communities—Sunni Arabs, Shiites and Kurds—came under attack.

The latest attacks came despite Maliki securing a pledge on Saturday from Iraqi tribal leaders to try to quell the fighting.

Four US troops were killed when their vehicle was hit by a roadside booby trap north of Baghdad and another died in a similar attack inside the capital, bringing US military losses in Iraq since their March 2003 invasion to 2,625.

Late Sunday, gunmen sprayed fire indiscriminately into a market in Khalis, a mainly Shiite town north of Baghdad, killing 14 people and wounding 25.

It was the second major attack of the day in Khalis—six civilians had earlier been killed in a bombing—and gun attacks in the rest of Diyala province accounted for six more victims.

Three suicide bombings against Kurdish targets killed 11 people and wounded 66 more in the ethnically mixed northern oil city of Kirkuk, police Brigadier General Burhan Tayib said.

One attack hit a shrine run by the family of President Jalal Talabani—Iraq's most prominent Kurdish politician—the other the home of a Kurdish police chief in the city, which is claimed by both Kurds and Arabs.

Four Kurdish policemen were ambushed and killed on a road outside the city by suspected Sunni Arab militants, police said.

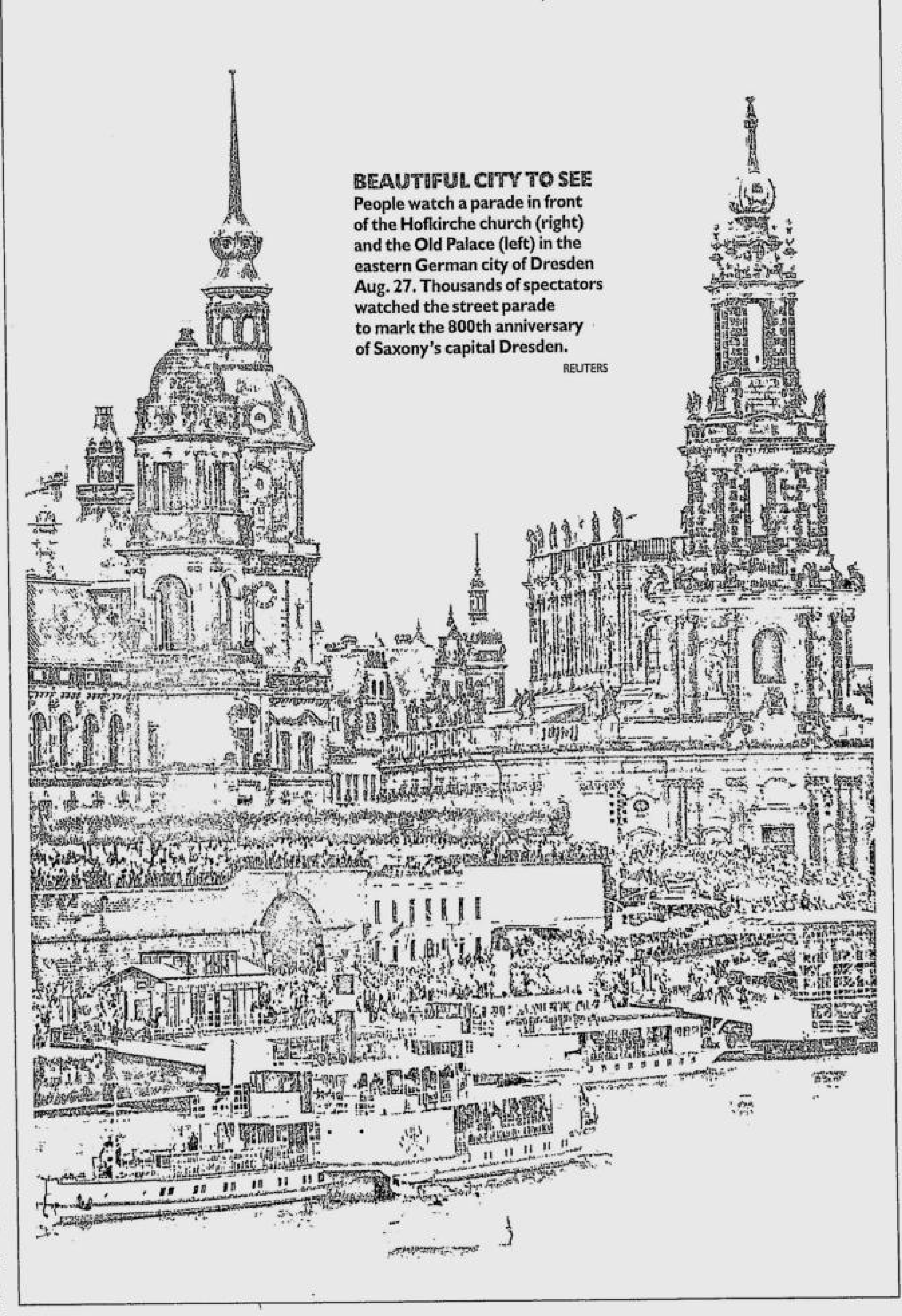
Baghdad, where a major security operation has been in place since July, saw two major suicide bomb attacks on Sunday that left at least 14 people dead, after a relative lull in violence in the past few days.

Two people were killed when a suicide bomber blew up a truck by the offices of a state-owned newspaper, while a second targeted commuters on Sadun Street near the landmark Palestine Hotel, in the commercial heart of the capital.

"A terrorist wearing an explosive belt blew himself inside a Mercedes bus of 18 passengers and the terrible and cowardly act led to the martyrdom of eight innocent civilians and the injury of 18 others," Maliki's office said.

Gunmen also killed four of Sunni former deputy prime minister Abd Mutlaq al-Juburi's bodyguards in an ambush on their car in Baghdad's western Ameriyah neighborhood, a security official said.

AFP



BEAUTIFUL CITY TO SEE
People watch a parade in front of the Hofkirche church (right) and the Old Palace (left) in the eastern German city of Dresden Aug. 27. Thousands of spectators watched the street parade to mark the 800th anniversary of Saxony's capital Dresden. REUTERS

What's Peter Pan up to now? New book to reveal all soon

ON OCT. 5, SIMON & SCHUSTER, with great fanfare and much promotion, is planning to publish "Peter Pan in Scarlet," the first "officially sanctioned" sequel to J.M. Barrie's childhood classic.

The Oxford University Press, which is bringing out the book in Britain, chose the author, Geraldine McCaughrean, in a 2004 international competition held by Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, which holds the British literary rights to the Peter Pan characters.

But the Peter story has already been the subject of scores of editions, comic books, motion pictures, stage plays and animations, as well as two best-selling prequels written by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson. Is there room for yet another version?

"Peter Pan in Scarlet" takes place in 1926, more than 20 years after Barrie's play was first produced on the London stage. The Lost Boys are the Old Boys, and they and Wendy Darling have grown up. The group is troubled by strange dreams that have been leaking out of Neverland.

Of course, to return to Neverland they must become children again, and they do.

But when the voyagers arrive in Neverland, they discover that it has been transformed, the land polluted, the trees autumnal. Of course, there is Peter, who has still not grown up, and can't read and write. "I'm dying of boredom," he cries.

McCaughrean is the author of 125 children's books, three of them winners of the prestigious Whitbread Children's Book Awards, Britain's version of the Newbery Medal.

McCaughrean, 55, said she didn't attempt to make "Peter Pan in Scarlet" conform to modern standards. She said she "tried very, very closely to pick up Barrie's style and mood."

NYT

WorldBriefs

Rumsfeld considers ICBMs in terror war

Fairbanks, Alaska—US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Sunday warned North Korea may pose a threat as a weapons seller to terrorists and that America would consider taking the nuclear warheads off intercontinental ballistic missiles so they could be used against terrorists. Rumsfeld, in Alaska to visit a missile defense installation weeks after Pyongyang test-fired a long-range missile believed capable of reaching the United States, said North Korea is testing missiles to show the capabilities to potential buyers. "They sell anything to anyone," he said. The defense secretary also met with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov on Sunday to discuss missile defense and cooperation on defense technologies, among other things. Rumsfeld, after that closed-door meeting, said the Pentagon was considering a plan to replace the nuclear warheads on some intercontinental ballistic missiles with conventional weapons, a move that would make the missiles less lethal and therefore more conceivable for politicians to use in preemptive strikes against terrorist groups. The re-tipped missiles would offer the ability to accurately and quickly target such groups as the threat they pose grows due to their acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and other lethal weapons from proliferators, Rumsfeld said. ***Reuters***

Israel drone strike kills 4 in Gaza

Gaza City—Four armed Palestinians from the ruling Islamist Hamas movement were killed early Monday in the Gaza Strip when an Israeli drone fired a missile at them, a Palestinian security official said. The four members of a special forces unit of the Palestinian interior ministry, controlled by Hamas, were out on the street in Gaza City's eastern Shejaya neighborhood when the attack took place, the official said. Separately, 20-year-old Palestinian, Wassim al-Masri, was killed early Monday when he refused to stop at a roadblock near the southern town of Khan Yunis and Hamas security forces opened fire on him. On Sunday, three Palestinians, including two Hamas members, were killed by Israeli forces near the Karni border crossing in the Gaza Strip. Since June 28, when Israel launched a massive offensive in Gaza to recover a captured soldier and stop rocket attacks, at least 191 Palestinians have been killed. ***AFP***

Fake bomb found near Thaksin residence

Bangkok, Thailand—Police uncovered a fake bomb near the residence of Thailand's prime minister on Monday, four days after a genuine explosive was found inside a car close to his house, police said. Responding to a call about a suspicious object on the street, police found some wire, an alarm clock and a brick with a handwritten note attacking Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra attached, said police Lt .Col Veera Kandee. Meanwhile, authorities continued to investigate the discovery of explosives in an army officer's car last Thursday in what Thaksin says was a plot against his life but which others suspect may have been staged to gain sympathy for the beleaguered Thai leader. The army lieutenant who drove the car with the bomb has been arrested and Thaksin has said that four senior military officers, whom he did not name, masterminded the attempt on his life. ***AP***

DEAD AT 116
Maria Esther de Capovilla reads the newspaper at her house in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Dec. 14, 2005. Capovilla, the oldest person on Earth according to Guinness World Records, has died Aug. 27, at 116, her granddaughter said. AP)

Hit by disasters, China heeds global warming

By Chris Buckley

BEIJING—STORMS, FLOODS, HEAT and drought that have killed more than 2,000 people in China this year are a prelude to weather patterns likely to become more extreme due to global warming, the head of the Beijing Climate Centre said.

China was braced for further hardship as rising temperatures worldwide trigger increasingly extreme weather, Dong Wenjie, director general of the climate center, said.

"The precise causes of these phenomena aren't easy to determine on their own," Dong told Reuters of meteorological disasters that have caused 160 billion yuan ($20 billion) worth of damage this year.

"But we know the broad background is global warming. That's clear. It's a reminder that global warming will bring about increasingly extreme weather events more often."

A study issued by China's chief climate scientists last year predicted that mean temperatures across China were likely to climb, forcing major changes in rainfall, desertification, river flows and crop production.

Yet even as China approaches the United States as the world's largest producer of the manmade greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, Beijing is set against mandatory ceilings on its emissions, experts said.

"China's preoccupation is economic development and growth," said Paul Harris, of Lingnan University in Hong Kong, who studies climate-change policy.

"It seems Chinese policy-makers are beginning to take warnings about global warming on board. But they certainly don't want to sign on to compulsory caps."

Global warming may increase rainfall in China's north, but increased temperatures and evaporation there are likely to offset much or all of that, Lin Erda, a climate expert at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said.

Without corrective action, nationwide agricultural production was likely to fall between five and 10 percent, he said.

With its vast and arid western half, China is no stranger to drought. But, unusually, this year's extreme heat and dry had struck the geographical basin enclosing Sichuan province and Chongqing municipality, said Dong.

Until now, that area has experienced a slight fall in average temperatures over past decades, possibly thanks to a protective umbrella of pollution or cloud.

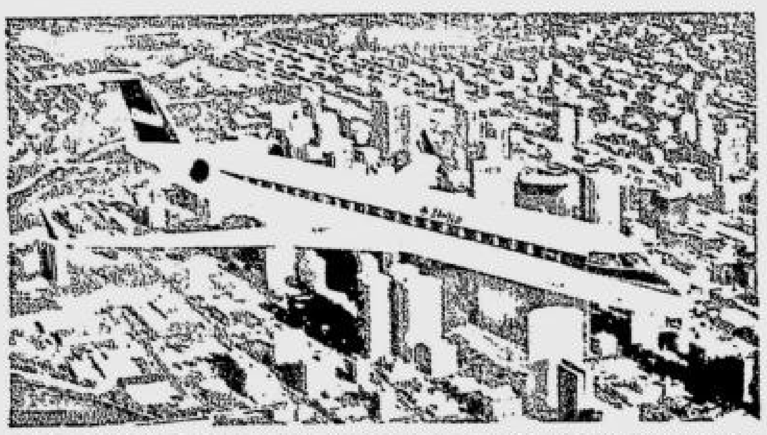
But this year, much of Sichuan and Chongqing has suffered record-breaking hot days and the lowest rainfall for nearly 60 years, and on Sunday Sichuan forecast another burst of 38 degrees Celsius (100°F) days and withering drought.

Reuters

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Plane crashes in Kentucky; 49 killed



THE BOMBARDIER CRJ jet, similar to the one which crashed Aug. 27 in Lexington, Kentucky, killing 49 of the 50 people on board. REUTERS

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY—US FEDERAL investigators pored Monday over flight data from a regional passenger jet that crashed in the Midwestern state of Kentucky, in a bid to determine to exact cause of the disaster that cost 49 people their lives.

Comair Flight 5191, bound for Atlanta, Georgia, crashed soon after its predawn takeoff Sunday from Lexington's Blue Grass Airport. Only one crew member has so far survived the crash.

It was the deadliest US air accident in nearly five years.

Debbie Hersman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said at a news conference that investigators had retrieved the airplane's cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder, the so-called black boxes, and sent them to Washington for analysis.

A "preliminary review" of the data showed that the plane took off at a bearing consistent with the airport's shorter runway, Runway 26, built for smaller, general aviation planes.

"It is my understanding that (the plane also) went through the perimeter fence," she said.

Blue Grass Airport administrator Michael Gobb earlier told reporters that the short, 1,036-m runway was for "daylight only" use by general aviation, meaning it was not lighted.

The plane took off before dawn, and meteorologists said the weather was clear.

The airport was fully staffed with air-traffic controllers and other personnel, he said.

The Comair Delta connections flight went down about 1.6 km west of the airport, said Comair, a wholly owned subsidiary of Delta Air Lines.

Comair president Don Bornhorst said the crew had flown the plane for some time, and that Comair had purchased it new.

It was the worst US airline accident since an American Airlines flight in New York killed 265 people two months after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. *AFP*

Islamic nations among most corrupt, says Malaysia premier

KUALA LUMUR—ISLAMIC NATIONS ARE ranked as among the world's most-corrupt and the fight to tackle the scourge could be tough due to poverty and poor governance, Malaysia's prime minister said Monday.

Taking his anticorruption message to the rest of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) nations, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who chairs the group, said there were no quick fixes to completely eradicate the problem.

"I am deeply saddened to note that Muslim countries, as a group, do not rate very highly when it comes to perceptions of corruption," he said at the opening of the group's first forum on graft.

"I believe that many of the development challenges that the Muslim Ummah (community) faces have their roots in problems of poverty, poor governance and limited education opportunities," he said.

Citing Transparency International's 2005 report, he said the Muslim country with the best record could only rank 29th out of 158 countries surveyed.

"More than half of the bottom 10 places were occupied by Muslim countries," he said. Chad was ranked as the most corrupt.

"The current condition that Muslim countries find themselves is deeply alarming and distressing," he said in a speech.

The 57-member OIC comprises 1.8 billion people, ranging from wealthy Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to poor African states such as Chad and Sudan.

Transparency International said the perception that Muslim nations were among the most corrupt had nothing to do with Islam. *Reuters*

Hezbollah hints at swap talks

BEIRUT—THE LEADER OF HEZBOLLAH said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that "contacts" had been made which might lead to talks on an exchange of prisoners held by the Lebanese guerrilla group and Israel.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah told the privately owned Beirut television station New TV that Italy was trying to involve itself in the process, though he did not say how.

"It seems that Italy is trying to get into the subject," the Hezbollah leader said. "The United Nations is interested and the negotiations would be through (Lebanese parliamentary speaker Nabih) Berri."

In Rome, the head of the defense committee of the Italian senate said he expected talks to begin this week.

Senator Sergio De Gregorio said two Israeli soldiers whose seizure on July 12 sparked a bitter 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah were "still alive, fortunately," but did not discuss their condition.

Hezbollah is still holding the two soldiers and says it wants to exchange them for some of the thousands of Arab prisoners, including Lebanese, in Israeli jails.

Israeli newspaper reports have suggested the Jewish state might be prepared to negotiate.

Nearly 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 157 Israelis, mostly soldiers, died in the war, which ended with a UN-brokered truce on Aug. 14. *Reuters*

LIVING STATUE
The living statue "Titan's figurehead" from the United States performs on the street during the first world championships on living statues in Arnhem, The Netherlands, Aug. 27. AP

Nokor ready for nuke test, says top spy

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—North Korea has facilities on standby to test a nuclear explosion and could do so at any time, the chief of South Korea's main spy agency said Monday, according to Yonhap news agency.

Kim Seung-kyu, head of the National Intelligence Service, said, however, that there is no sign that a test is imminent, Yonhap said, citing a lawmaker who attended a parliamentary meeting where Kim reported.

"Peripheral facilities for a nuclear test are always on standby and considering the North's capability, the possibility (of a test) is always open when there is a decision" by North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, the spy agency chief told a parliamentary meeting.

"Currently, however, there is no direct sign or movement now that North Korea is preparing a nuclear test," he said.

Officials of the intelligence agency were not immediately available for comment.

Concerns of a nuclear test by the North flared anew earlier this month after ABC television network cited US officials saying that suspicious activity was detected at a suspected underground nuclear testing site in the communist state.

North Korea claims to have nuclear weapons, but has not performed any known test. Many experts believe the North has enough radioactive material to build at least half a dozen nuclear weapons.

On Saturday, the North's Foreign Ministry said it would take "all necessary countermeasures" unless the US accepts its demand for an end to financial restrictions on the country.

The North didn't elaborate what those countermeasures would be, but some local media said the North's statement may mean a nuclear test. *AP*

Two competing images define Bush presidency

WASHINGTON—WHEN THE nation records the legacy of George W. Bush, 43rd president and self-described compassionate conservative, two competing images will help tell the tale.

The first is of Bush after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, bullhorn in hand, feet planted firmly in the rubble of the twin towers. The second is of him aboard Air Force One, on his way from Crawford, Texas, to Washington, peering out the window at the wreckage of Hurricane Katrina thousands of feet below.

If the bungled federal response to Hurricane Katrina called into question Bush's competence, that Air Force One snapshot, coupled with wrenching scenes on the ground of victims who were largely poor and black, called into question something equally important to Bush: his compassion.

A year later, he has yet to recover on either front.

A New York Times/CBS News Poll conducted this month found that roughly half—51 percent—of those surveyed disapproved of the way Bush had responded to the needs of hurricane victims, a figure statistically no different from last September, when 48 percent disapproved.

"This is a real black mark on his administration, and it's going to stay with him for a long time," said James A. Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University. "It will be in every textbook."

The poll found Americans critical about the pace of recovery, and lacking full confidence in the government. Thirty-nine percent described themselves as dissatisfied with progress in the region, and an additional 11 percent said they were angry.

Katrina recovery is generating a powerful undercurrent in this year's midterm elections as well, as Democrats invoke it as an illustration for what they regard as mismanagement on a number of issues, including the war in Iraq and the economy. NYT

HP Smart Office Solutions

CHOOSE YOUR GIFT WHEN YOU CHOOSE HP!

HP LASERJET 1320 PRINTER
P24,550
- Prints up to 22ppm (letter)
- First page out in less than 8.5 sec
- 16mb standard memory
- HP JetDirect Fast Ethernet embedded print server (Available in LJ1320n/tn)
- Suitable for printing up to 10,000 pages

Purchase any of the participating HP LaserJet Printer^ and get free shopping vouchers from selected shops.*
Print high-quality documents quickly with the HP LaserJet 1320 Printer. It can even print two-sided documents with ease. And from July 15 to August 31, 2006, enjoy shopping at any of the selected shops* of your choice.

^ Participating HP LaserJet Printers: LaserJet 1020/1022/1022n/1320/1320n/1160 Printers

* Selected shops include SM Department Store, Rustan's Department Store, Powerbooks, National Bookstore, Planet Sports, The Spa, Starbucks and Tower Records.

Redemption of free shopping vouchers can be claimed via third party agency, Acropolis-Beaverworks (c/o Cayin Mariano). Agency contact information:
- Name: Cayin Mariano
- Tel no: 6874883-84
- Fax no: 6359907
- Email address: cayin@brand-channels.com

Redemption is valid until October 31, 2006. Gift checks are valid for one year.

1-800-1441-6688 or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com
Visit your nearest HP reseller

hp invent

©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 to 5:30pm.,

PER DTI-NCR Permit No. 3509, Series of 2006

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

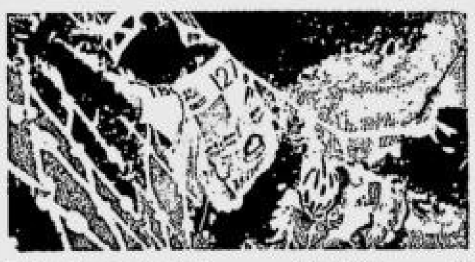
SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ **Woods thwarts** Cink for 52nd Tour win /A24



▨ **Team** Merrell-RP ends up 3rd in Macau /A23

▨ **Easy** clincher for SMB-RP five in Brunei /A23

▨ **2 RP chessers tie** for 1st in KL tilt/A22

▨ **Agassi Farewell** Show draws US Open focus /A24

NBA super star Tracy McGrady is welcomed at the NAIA by Miss Tourism Queen International Justine Gabionza. JESS YUSON

T-Mac likes Pinoy passion for the game – and 'isaw'

By Francis Ochoa

TRACY MCGRADY HAD A LOT of fun the last time he was here—jamming with young ballers and sampling Filipino street food—that he vowed to schedule a comeback.

Yesterday, he fulfilled that promise.

"I'm just excited about being here and I can't wait to get my day started out here," said the Houston Rockets superstar in the National Basketball Association.

"It's been so long and I remember how much fun it was the last time I was here, which was in 2000, I think," said the 27-year-old McGrady, better known in the NBA as T-Mac.

The 6-foot-8 McGrady, the NBA's top scorer in the 2002-03 season while playing for the Orlando Magic, planed in from Guangzhou in China on a private Lear jet at 12:10 p.m. While here, he will launch his newest shoe line and hold a special meet-and-greet session with local fans.

McGrady first arrived in 2000 as a budding talent on the verge of a transfer from the Toronto Raptors to the Magic that would change the course of his career. He had fond memories from that first visit.

"I saw the passion that you guys have for the game of basketball and I love that because I have that type of passion," McGrady recounted. "I wanted to come back and see how much the sport has really grown. How much the players have really grown."

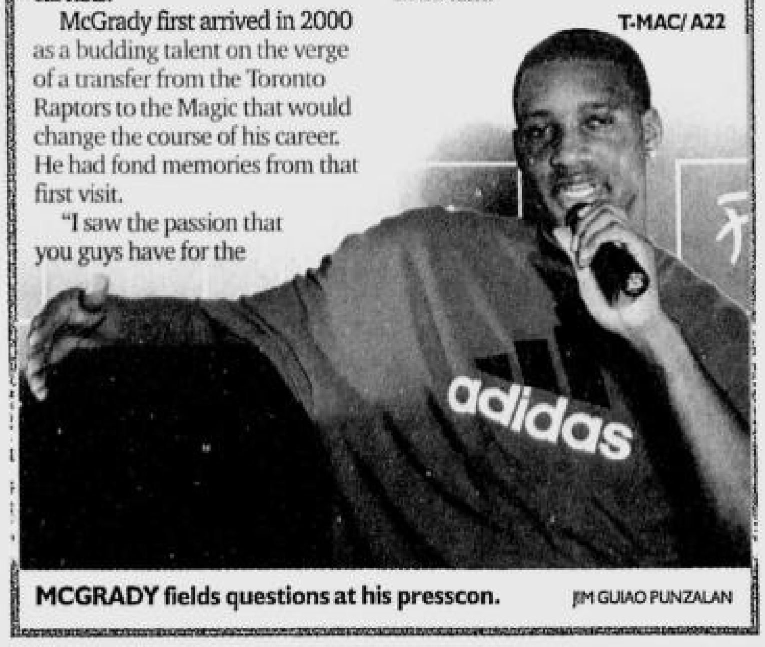
And among his memorable side events during his first visit was sampling the popular *isaw* (grilled chicken innards).

"I'm the type of person who usually doesn't eat what I'm not familiar with," he said, smiling. "But they made me try it and so I did and I kinda liked it."

This time, McGrady's visit to the country will include community events and basketball clinics, which will dwell on motivational talks centering around that now familiar Adidas tagline, "Impossible is Nothing."

After meeting the press yesterday, McGrady went to the SM Mall of Asia music hall for the launch of his T-MAC limited-edition Adidas shoes and apparel. He is scheduled to meet with fans at the Ayala Malls-Glorietta today at 11 a.m.

T-MAC/ A22



MCGRADY fields questions at his presscon. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

WORLD CUP OF POOL

RP billiards' dream pair rips US champs

FILIPINO pool stars Efren "Bata" Reyes (left) and Francisco "Django" Bustamante lift their trophy as the inaugural champions of the PartyPoker.com World Cup of Pool. PHOTOS FROM PARTYPOKER.COM

EVEN GREAT PLAYers like Efren "Bata" Reyes believe in lucky charms.

And Team Philippines' triumph yesterday in the PartyPoker.com World Cup of Pool—where Reyes combined with buddy Francisco "Django" Bustamante to beat Team USA for the title—only reinforced Reyes' belief that inaugural tournaments are his exclusive domain.

"It's funny that every time there is a new big tournament, I win it," Reyes was quoted saying in the official website of the PartyPoker.com World Cup of Pool.

"But all week I thought if we could get to the final we could win."

And win big they did.

The top-seeded Filipinos humbled the American pair of three-time world champion Earl Strickland and former US Open titlist Rodney Morris, 13-5, Sunday night in the finals of the inaugural tournament among 32 teams from 31 nations at the Newport Centre, South Wales in Britain.

Victory for Reyes and Bustamante was worth $60,000 (P3.12 million).

In front of a gallery of about 900 fans, including a large contingent of Filipinos, Reyes and Bustamante shattered a 4-4 count by taking the next seven racks and draining the fight out of the Americans, who settled for the runner-up prize of $30,000.

"USA is a good team but they were unlucky and that made it easy for us," said Reyes, who turned 52 on Saturday. "The support of the fans was brilliant, they've come from all over Britain and have looked after us all week."

Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, longtime benefactor of Reyes and Bustamante, acknowledged Efren's magical touch in inaugural events.

"Efren won the World Pool Championship the first time it was handled by Matchroom Sports and aired internationally," said Puyat. "He's also the overall champion in the first year of the SMB-Asian 9-Ball Tour."

Reyes also won the first staging of the International Billiards Championship in Japan, where he pocketed $150,000, as well as first tournament of the International Pool Tour, dubbed King of the Hill, where he bagged $200,000.

REYES and Bustamante celebrate their win with compatriots in the gallery.

This time, of course, Reyes needed help from his *kumpadre* Bustamante.

While Reyes was pocketing unbelievable shots, Bustamante made it harder for the Americans to make a run with solid shotmaking. The 42-year-old Bustamante made a brilliant safety during their 7-0 run.

The turning point of the match came in the 10th rack when a Morris blunder left the 1-ball at the edge of the pocket.

"In the beginning, there was a lot of pressure on us, but when we went three games ahead it all lifted." said Bustamante. "Efren played lots of unbelievable shots, some of them I've never seen in my life.

"They (Americans) were unlucky because they didn't get the shots after the break. It is a great feeling to be World Cup of Pool champions."

Morris said they both felt the title slipping away when the Filipinos moved up, 7-4.

"We never really got a clear shot off the break and it was a tough hill to climb but they (Filipinos) played great—the way they were supposed to."

The US ousted upset-minded Vietnam, 9-7, to arrange a title clash with the Philippines, which posted a similar 9-7 victory against tough Germany in the other semifinal duel.

The Philippines beat Malta (9-0), Malaysia (9-5) and Czech Republic (9-6) on the way to the semifinals, while the US trounced Singapore (9-6), England (9-3) and Hong Kong (9-3). *With a report from Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

United Philippine basketball looms

BAP, Pilipinas Basketball come to terms in Japan talks

FINALLY, A SEMBLANCE OF UNITY IN PHILippine basketball.

The Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and the Pilipinas Basketball (PB) agreed yesterday to unite for the sake of the sport and the people who have been clamoring for harmony in the local basketball community.

This was contained in a joint communique issued by the BAP and the PB—through their presidents, former Sen. Jose Lina Jr. and Bernie Atienza, respectively—following a Fiba-mandated meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

The talks were aimed at creating a united basketball organization that would seek membership with the Philippine Olympic Committee and eventually take over the membership of BAP in the Fiba, subject to appropriate Fiba regulations on membership.

A three-man panel, composed of the presidents of the BAP, the PB and a third member to be agreed upon by both presidents, shall be created within five days, according to the communique.

The panel will be tasked to write and finalize the organization's constitution and by-laws as well as review, verify and validate the list of members submitted by the BAP and PB to the Fiba Central Board Special Commission, which was created to hear the case.

The panel will also convene the national congress of the unified organization and oversee the election of its officers.

From Sept. 1, the panel—to be headed by the third member—will have 30 days to complete its tasks.

While the unification process is being pursued, the BAP will continue to represent the Philippines as Fiba member. The Fiba secretary-general, however, will be sending communications to both the BAP and PB.

With the communique, the formation of the national team can begin immediately, with its participation subject to the final creation of the unified organization.

The Fiba Central Board will appoint a Fiba officer to monitor the compliance of goals outlined in the communique.

The panel, on the other hand, is mandated to regularly report to the Fiba secretary general developments pertaining to the commique.

The agreement was signed by Lina and Atienza, with PBA commissioner Noli Eala, BAP chair Michelle Lhuillier, POC first vice president Monico Puentevella and Fiba secretary-general Patrick Bauhmann as witnesses.

SPORTSWATCH

Ateneo, SBC in semis duel

ATENEO AND SAN BEDA HAVE SET UP DREAM semifinal meetings in both divisions of the Milo BEST Center SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament next week. Ateneo bested Don Bosco-Makati, 94-90, Sunday to earn a shot at the Bedans, who had advanced to the Passerelle semifinals earlier last week at the expense of La Salle Green Hills. In the SBP division, the Bedans whipped St. Mary's College, 49-19, while the Eaglets routed Trinity College, 67-17. Xavier School also earned a semifinal spot in the SBP division by subduing Lourdes School (Mandaluyong), 42-29, while LSGH toppled Lourdes School (Quezon City). De La Salle Zobel also made it to the next phase in Passerelle by blasting Don Bosco (Mandaluyong), 62-42.

LGBA derby starts today

COCKFIGHTING CHAMPIONS FROM THE provinces are seeing action today in the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association 5-stag derby at the Araneta Coliseum. The first of 150 fights begin at 10 a.m. Another 150-fight program will be held on Thursday at the same venue with Thunderbird, Lakpue, Asvet, Purina, B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador as sponsors. Participants must field straight five stags. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said that derbies are also slated at the Malvar Sports Complex on Sept. 5 and Bacolor Cockpit Arena on Sept. 8. For inquiries, call 911-3101 or 911-2928.

Albano's Mulawin picked

THE MULAWIN ENTRY OF FORMER CONgresssman Rudy Albano looms as one of the favorites in the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby series which will start on Sept. 6 at the San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Albano tested his new Roundhead Lemons from Isabela in last week's Las Piñas 6-stag derby and bagged runner-up honors. GCAP founder Patrick Antonio said his group will hold six stagfests this year to determine the 2006 Stagfighter of the Year. Other derbies are slated Sept. 20 and 27; Oct. 11, 18 and 25.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—Es Twenty Six (6), Music N Magic (6), Sexy Eyes (7), Lancia Stratos (3)
Race 2—King Aljhun (2), Hard Way (4), I Miss You (7), Tribeca (5)
Race 3—Real Tough (2), Batang Westside (6), Valid Hazm (3), Guardian (1)
Race 4—Whilly Nilly (6), Ideal gaze (8), EJ's Magic (2), Cool N'Sazzy (3)
Race 5—Yankee Clipper (6), Replica (2), Reign Of Fire/Infinite Passion (8), Onceuponatime (5)
Race 6—Crew Cut (7), Golden Number (2), Tellmenolies (2), Run Like D'Wind (3)
Race 7—West Swinger (2), Valentine Girl (8), Heart Of The Wind (4), Vinfa's Pride (9)
Race 8—(Manhattan (5), Air Force One (2), Ocean Deep (6), Angie Gray (4)

2 RP chessers share KL top prize

Final standings: 8.0—GM Dao TH (Vietnam), **IM Oliver Dimakiling (RP)**, GM Z. Rahman (Banglandesh), **NM Darwin Laylo (RP)**, IM Wynn ZH (Myanmar); 7.5—GM Nguyen AD (Vietnam), GM Nguyen TS (Vietnam), **GM Mark Paragua (RP)**, IM A. Nadanian (Ármenia), GM S. Megaranto (Indonesia); 7.0—**NM John Paul Gomez (RP)**, **FM Julio Sadorra (RP)**, GM Yu ST (China), **Anthony Makinano (RP)**, Shen Y. (China), WGM E. Karavade (India)

Norm results of RP players: O. Dimakiling (first GM norm); D. Laylo (first GM norm and complete IM title); Wesley So (complete IM title); JP Gomez (IM norm); J. Saddora (IM norm); Anthony Makinano (IM norm and outright FM title)

WESLEY So: Now an IM

BACK TO BACK NATIONAL CHAMPion Darwin Laylo beat countryman and fellow National Master John Paul Gomez in the eleventh and final round to finish in a tie for first in the Dato Arthur Tan 3rd Malaysian Open on Sunday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Laylo, an enlisted personnel of the Philippine Army, scored 8.0 points, the same output of eventual winner Vietnamese Grandmaster Dao Thien, second placer compatriot IM Oliver Dimakiling, third placer GM Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh and fifth placer IM Wynn Zaw Htun of Myanmar.

The Lipa City-based Laylo settled for fourth after the tie-break was applied, but contented himself by earning his first GM result and completing his IM requirements, according to RP team captain Willie Abalos.

Cebuano non-master Anthony Makinano also earned an IM result plus an outright FIDE Master title after notching 7.0 points, good for a tie for 11th to 17th with Gomez, Filipino FM Julio Catalino Sadorra, Chinese GM Yu Shaoteng, Chinese Shen Yuan and Indian Woman GM Easha Karavade.

Dimakiling also secured his first GM result while 12-year-old Wesley So finished with 6.5 points to complete his IM requirements. Sadorra and Gomez also won IM results.

So, who lost his final round match against 2005 SEA Games five-gold winner GM Nguyen Ngoc Trong Son of Vietnam, needs only to raise his rating to 2400 to become a full-fledged IM. So has an 2330 Elo.

In other matches, Dao beat IM Ronald Dableo and top seed GM Mark Paragua subdued compatriot IM Richard Bitoon to end up tied for 6th to 10th with 7.5 points. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Salvador settles for 4th place

FILIPINO FIDE MASTER ROLAND SALVADOR FINISHED IN A TIE FOR FOURTH in the Bratto chess tournament won by Albanian Grandmaster Erald Derbvishi on Sunday in Bratto, Italy. The Milan-based Salvador, who narrowly missed his third and final GM result, trounced Italian FM Pietro Mola in the ninth and final round to score 6.5 points. Dervishi and GM Dimitri Komarov of Ukraine shared first place with 7.5 points each, but after the tie-break was applied, Derbvishi was declared champion. Italian FM Roberto Mogranzini finished solo third with 7.0 points while Hungarian GMs Gyula Sax and Atila Gorzpeter, Italians IM Luca Sytaj, GM Michele Godena, IM Martha Baquero and FM Sabino Brunello wound up in the company of the 24-year-old Salvador. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

T-Mac likes Pinoy passion . . .

From page A21

McGrady was welcomed by at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by reigning Miss Tourism Queen International Justine Gabionza, Adidas managing director Joey Singian and regional managing director Winnie Lu.

The five-time All-Star said he's hoping to surpass the things he did during his first visit here, including urging young basketball players to take the path he took to basketball superstardom.

"Work hard," he said. "I definitely was blessed with a lot of talent, but it took a lot of hard work to get to where I am now."

And, if his tummy's up to it, he might just give *isaw* another shot.

"I might give it a try again," he said. *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

- McGrady will hold a basketball clinic today at the Ateneo Blue Eagles Gym to share time with less privileged kids and give tips to aspiring players "who have otherwise never been given the opportunity to develop their potentials."

MCGRADY

UCAA: EAC five clobbers Olivarez

GESTER EBUEN SIZZLED WITH 28 POINTS as defending champion Emilio Aguinaldo College crushed Olivarez College, 78-64, in the fifth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports Center.

Ebuen's first 10 points gave the Generals an early 20-10 lead and EAC coasted to its fourth straight win.

The La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots and St. Francis of Assisi Doves outplayed separate rivals in the other matches at the EAC Sports Center.

The Patriots rolled to an 87-71 win over the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars—their first in three games.

The Doves, with Raymund Ilagan hitting 24 points, turned back the Asian College of Science and Technology Lightnings, 89-80.

Bernasconi bags RP's lone world junior wushu gold

FRANCESA YSABEL BERNASCONI BAGGED a gold in spear play as the top performer for the Philippine team that captured eight medals in the World Junior Wushu Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, recently.

Ranged against the world's finest athletes, Bernasconi performed her routine with aplomb to snatch the title in the five-day Group B competition participated in by 40 countries.

Sisters Mary Evangeline and Mary Stephanie Agbay of Cebu City and Marianne Mariano of Baguio City came up with three silvers while the RP boys added four bronze medals.

Mary Evangeline, the younger of the two, took the silver in the southern fist (nanquan) while Mary Stephanie in sword play (taiji). Mariano finished a fighting second in sanshou.

Collecting bronze for the Philippine Sports Commission-sponsored squad were Henson See (cudgel play), Steven Luis Ngo (spear play), Daniel Parantac of Baguio City (taiji sword play) and Iloilo's Ruel Catalan (sanshou). The team was managed by Jimmy Ong of No Fear apparel.

YURI Escueta of Ateneo tries to
their UAAP game Sunday. The

Lady Eagl

ATENEO BLEW ANOTHER WINning streak in basketball yesterday when the Lady Eagles bowed to the Lady Tamaraws of Far Eastern, 62-59, in the UAAP tournament at the FEU gym in Manila.

Kathrina Nido exploded for 16 points for FEU, which tied the defending champion Lady Eagles at the top of the heap with eight wins and two losses.

The loss snapped the six-game run of the Lady Eagles, whose male

Open only to adult smokers 18 years old and above.

Government Warning: Cigarette sm

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

get a shot off Melchor Gile of UST during igers won, 80-88, in overtime. RUDY ESPERAS

Easy clincher for SMB-RP five in Brunei

By June Navarro

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—IT WAS PRACtically over in just 20 minutes.

The San Miguel-RP Team encountered little resistance and breezed past the Darwin All-Stars, 96-65, to rule the 6th Shell Rimula Brunei Cup for the second year in a row Sunday night at the National Indoor Stadium here.

"We came into the Finals unbeaten so it was nice to finish it with a perfect record," said San Miguel-RP Team coach Chot Reyes after the Filipinos swept the elimination round and finished the championship round with a 7-0 record.

``It was the result of the team's commitment to work together and the desire to win," added Reyes, whose team took home the champions' purse of B$20,000 (P640,000).

But as confetti rained down on the floor, Reyes felt a tinge of sadness now that he must temporarily part ways with his job in the national team and resume his head coaching chores at San Miguel Beer.

``The last thing we talked about in the dugout was that we don't know what will happen to us," said Reyes. ``Will we play in the Asian Games or in the Fiba-Asia championships next year? It all depends on the Fiba suspension being lifted."

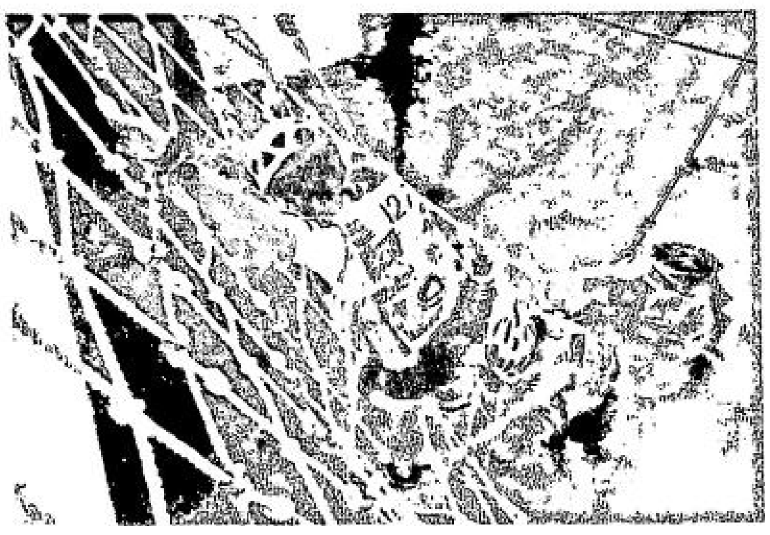
The status of the country in the Fiba is expected to be decided Tuesday night when the central board of the world cage body acts on the application for membership of a new group made up of officials from the Basketball Association of the Philippines and Pilipinas Basketball.

``For now, there's no tournament lined up for the team. This could even be the last so it's really sad,",said Reyes.

Danny Seigle was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament by knocking in 17 of his 25 points in the first half.

Nino Canaleta also went on a scoring spree while Dondon Hontiveros, Mick Pennisi and Renren Ritualo came out scorching from afar as the predominantly Filipino crowd cheered their team throughout.

With Australian sniper Shane Davis effectively muzzled, the Filipinos virtually settled the issue with a 51-29 spread at halftime. *June Navarro*



ACTION ASIA CHALLENGE: Team Merrell's Thumbie Remigio and Anna Marissa Nagtalon (above) negotiate the cargo net section of the Action Asia Challenge in the Chinese territory of Macau, where the Filipino pair emerged as third placers in the mixed combined (age 36 and above) category recently. Nagtalon and Remigio later show off their trophies with an AAC official during the awarding ceremony. Team Merrel plans to join the next leg of the outdoor adventure series in Singapore on Sept. 3.

es also blow streak; Tams wrest chess lead

counterparts, the Blue Eagles, bowed to the University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers, 88-80, in overtime at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City, also on Sunday.

Diana Jose and Joey Pasitos contributed to the Tamaraws' cause with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Trina Limgengco topscored for the Lady Eagles with 19 points.

Also Monday, UST rolled to its third straight win after ripping University of the East, 78-52, to grab solo third place with a 7-3 card.

Adamson routed National (1-11), 56-38, to keep fourth place at 6-4, a full game ahead of idle University of the Philippines (5-5).

In chess competitions at the UE Briefing Room in Manila, FEU outplayed Adamson in Sunday's eighth round to wrest the men's lead even as University of the East stayed ahead in the junior division.

FEU moved out front with 19.0 points after a 3-1 win over Adamson, which dropped into a tie for second spot at 17.5 points with UE.

Adamson was also beaten by Santo Tomas, 1.5-2.5, on Saturday.

UE bounced back from a 1.5-2.5 loss to FEU Saturday with a 3.5-0.5 whipping of Ateneo.

The UE juniors—ahead with 22.0 points over second-running Adamson (18.5)—shut out UST on Saturday and FEU on Sunday.

Saturday's fifth-round was actually a day of shutouts with Adamson ripping National apart and Ateneo blasting FEU.

In Sunday's sixth round, Ateneo also swept National, while Adamson won, 3.5-0.5, over UST to keep their 2-3 positions in the standings.

Standings: Men (after eight rounds)—FEU 19.0, Adamson 17.5, UE 17.5, UST 16.0, UP 14.5, NU 8.0, Ateneo 3.5.

Juniors—UE 22.0, Adamson 18.5, Ateneo 14.5, UST 10.5, NU 5.5, FEU 1.0.

Spring Tagaytay cagers boost Espiritu Cup bid

SPRING TAGAYTAY BOOSTED ITS drive for a quarterfinal berth in the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament Saturday by downing Laptop Pawnshop in overtime, 94-87, at the Lyceum gym in Intramuros.

The combined NBC teams of Spring Cooking Oil GM Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino limited their rivals to five points in the extension period after they had tied with Laptop at 82 at the end of regulation to improve their record to 4-3.

5th venue beat Banal na Pag-aaral, 100-92, in the other game.

The scores:

5TH AVENUE 100—Yee 26, Mamaclay 18, Dela Cuesta 12, Zagala 12, Alfad 8, Saddi 7, magpayo 4, Espiritu 4, Gatchalian 4, Abad 3, Valdez 2.

BANAL 92—Roda 16, Umatam 16, Punzalan 14, Bernal 13, Torello 12, Morales 7, Borjal 6, Palarca 6, Sablan 2.

Quarters: 21-29, 47-51, 70-73, 100-92

SPRING TAGAYTAY 94—Epondulan 23, Capobres 17, Morante 12, Mallari 12, M. Reyes 11, T. Reyes 10, Finullar 3, Pellejera 3, Yambao 2, Guiyab 1.

LAPTOP 87—Sergio 20, Malias 18, Lopez 16, Dela Rea 9, Kalaw 7, Santos 5.

Quarters: 23-23, 46-49, 68-64, 82-82 (OT)

WIN THE RIDE
BURN RUBBER

JOIN NOW
www.racing.ph
For details, call: 895-9999 (GMA)
1-800-10-895-9999 (Provincial)

Marlboro
RED RACING SCHOOL

oking is dangerous to your health

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SPORTS

TIGER Woods jubilates after sinking a birdie putt on the 12th hole. AP

Woods thwarts Cink for 52nd pro victory

AKRON, OHIO—TIGER WOODS BIRDIED the fourth playoff hole to beat Stewart Cink here Sunday in the $7.5-million World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational.

Woods' triumph came 10 years to the day after he turned professional, and made the elite WGC event the first that the superstar has won five times.

It wasn't easy, but in the end he did enough to record his 11th victory in 21 WGC starts.

Woods closed with a two-under-par 68 to tie Ryder Cup team mate Cink, who shot a 69 for 10-under 270, one shot ahead of Jim Furyk.

"I was lucky even to be in a playoff," Woods said. "I was not hitting it well the last two days. I was struggling, just trying to piece it together somehow.

"Wins like this show what you have inside, because you don't really have it physically, and you somehow find something," Woods added. "That's not always easy, but I've done it before and been successful, so I've just kept drawing on my experiences."

Woods now has 52 PGA Tour victories and has won his past four starts, beginning with the British Open and including the Buick Open and PGA Championship.

At least Cink made it a fight, overcoming a three-shot deficit on the final three holes to force the playoff.

At the third extra hole, the par-four 18th, Cink saw an eight-footer for par just trickle past past.

Woods had missed his par putt from a similar length, his ball stopping right on line but agonizingly short, and Cink knew he would never get a better chance. Based on past experience, he thought his putt would break sharply right-to-left.

"I was there last year or the year before, on the same line or maybe two feet closer, and my putt snapped left," Cink recalled. "Golfers, we don't forget anything. We might forget our anniversary now and then, but we don't forget any shots.

"I just did what I know how to do, and that's pick a line and commit to it and trust it. I had an image of the ball breaking to the left and it never really did.

"That was my real chance right there. I couldn't convert and that's why he's got the trophy." Woods admitted he got a big lift from Cink's miscue.

"I got a huge boost of momentum because I shouldn't have been there," Woods said. "I figured that Stewie should make that putt and nine times out of 10 he (does)."

That was the only opening Woods needed.

At the next, the par-four 17th, he shrugged off driving rain to stick an eight-iron 10 feet under the hole and went on to improve his tour playoff record to 10-1.

It is the only event Woods has won five times, while he has been victorious four times each in four other tournaments, including the Masters.

He said he was just sorry his father Earl, who died of cancer in May, couldn't see his current hot streak. *AFP*

'China can win Olympic medal'

BEIJING—YAO MING THINKS China's young team can still win a medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics despite being knocked out of the world championship in the second round.

The Asian champions led by 12 points before collapsing to a 95-64 defeat by Greece in Saitama on Sunday having scraped out of the group stage on the back of a last-second three-point shot.

"I'll go back to NBA," the 7 ft 5 in Houston Rockets center said in an interview with Basketball Pioneers newspaper. "I can promise I'll be better in two years but I need my team mates to become better. I only made five attempts (on Sunday) and we can't win if I only get five attempts."

Yao had the best scoring average at the world championship going into Sunday's game but pressure from the Greeks on the Chinese guards left him with just 10 points and eight rebounds as his team collapsed around him.

"What our guards lack, sometimes, is a little bit of courage and basically we need physical strength," he said.

"That's what I've learnt in my time in the NBA, to live on your strength. Look at my arms."

Despite the huge enthusiasm for the game in China, the national team finished 12th at the last world championship in Indiana in 2002 and eighth at the Athens Olympics two years later.

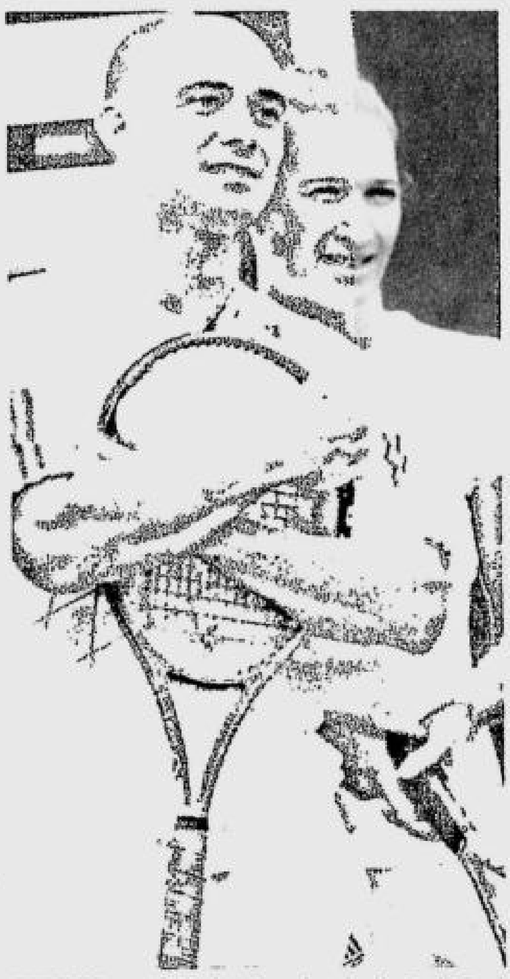
Along with Olympic high hurdle champion Liu Xiang, Yao is China's most popular sportsman and there is a lot of pressure on him to deliver a medal in men's basketball in 2008.

"If we can keep the good form, if the players work hard in the next two years, if we are fight as well as we did this time and if we are lucky at home," he said. *Reuters*

Other Aug. 27 results: Germany 78, Nigeria 77; US 113, Australia 73; France 68, Angola 62.

Jones sinks world mark

SYDNEY—LEISEL JONES SET A WORLD RECORD OF ONE MINUTE 04.12 seconds for the 100 meters breaststroke at the Australian short-course (25-meter pool) championships in Hobart on Sunday. Jones wiped 0.67 seconds off the previous world record of 1:07.79 set by Tara Kirk of the United States at Texas in March 2004. Jones also holds the long-course (50-meter pool) record for the 100m and 200m breaststroke. *Reuters*



TENNIS greats Andre Agassi and wife Steffi Graf.

Agassi Farewell Show draws US Open focus

NEW YORK—ALL THE TALK ABOUT ANDRE Agassi's last US Open shifts attention from everyone else: from Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick and Serena Williams.

And those other stars have no problem stepping aside for The Agassi Farewell Show.

"Obviously, the story from the 2006 US Open, regardless of what happens, is going to be Andre's last tournament. I hope that it's a celebration of his career, for this whole event, and that's what it should be," said Roddick, the 2003 Open champion, whose first-round match against Florent Serra of France is Monday. "He's earned that right. That will dominate the headlines, and I think it should dominate the headlines."

Other past champions scheduled to appear on Day 1 include Justine Henin-Hardenne (2003), Svetlana Kuznetsova (2004) and Lindsay Davenport (1998), who hopes to play despite hurting her right shoulder Saturday.

But center stage will be reserved for Agassi, the eight-time major champion who's retiring after the US Open. He's slated for the only night match Monday, facing Andrei Pavel of Romania after a ceremony renaming the National Tennis Center in honor of ex-player and pioneer Billie Jean King.

The 36-year-old Agassi has missed chunks of time on tour this season and isn't seeded, his game hampered by a bad back.

"It's not always dependable," he said ahead of his 21st US Open in a row. "But to be here, the inspiration of it—I'm hoping to get out there and feel awesome."

Said Federer, who beat Agassi in last year's final: "It's obvious he gets the attention. He deserves it."

Agassi's departure leaves a void at the top of tennis, someone who attracts fans and keeps them talking. Questions about the sport's future have prompted changes, including the Grand Slam debut of instant replay at the Open, and the ATP's tweaking of tournament formats (adding round-robin play, dropping best-of-five-set finals at nonmajors, starting events on Sundays rather than Mondays).

Personalities help drive tennis' popularity, and Roddick stirs plenty of interest, whether it's for the on-court success or gossip about him and Maria Sharapova. *AP*

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

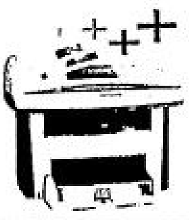
Tuesday, August 29, 2006

Ang kwento ng panget, mas pinaganda!
iDoL ABC
Letty la más fea
mon-sun 6pm
Premieres Aug 1
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

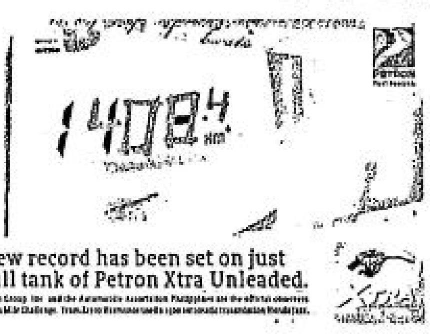
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	Ultimate Guinness World Records		ALI		Big News	Fear Factor	Philippine Idol Exclusive (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Bandila	Correspondents	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		House (Season II)				The Ultimate Fighter						Ripley's Believe It Or Not				CSI: NY (Season 2)		Rescue Me (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Pipe & Dale/My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dias	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ [illegible]	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinema One		Michael & Madonna				Till We Meet Again				Gagay				John & Marsha '85 Sa Probinsya				Halik Ng Sirena	
Cinemax				The Guns Of Navarone					Beastmaster III: The Eye Of Braxus			Dawn Of The Dead			Dead Canaries (9:40 PM)			Arlington Road (11:05PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Grid		E-Ring		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
Discovery Channel		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Rides		A Walking With Dinosaurs Trilogy	A Walking With Dinosaurs Special	Perfect Disaster		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Extreme Engineering		Perfect Disaster		Blueprint For Disaster	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science Yr 2	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Asian X Games '06 - Gold Medal Show	Asian X Games '06 - Review		Kiana's Flex Appeal	Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		Philips Sing. Cup '06 Singapore All Stars Vs Melbourne				Sportscenter Asia	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool C'ship				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runaway 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C.3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Skating With Celebrities		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man, Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Octava Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Ang [illegible] (3:45PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (9:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B.Eye II		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine II		Hustle II		Judging Amy		Coast To Coast			
HBO			Men Don't Leave (3:45PM)				Amber Frey: Witness For The Prosecution			Lethal Weapon (7:15 PM)				Entourage 11: Aquamansion	Entourage 12: An Offer Refused (9:25 PM)	The Fugitive (9:50 PM)			
Hero TV	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	B'Daman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Sabis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show With David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Designer Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Boy Meets Grill	E! News Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines		Pimp My Ride	Cribs		MTV Hits					Get Spotted		TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Arena		MTV Hits	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Wild Orphans	National Geographic Specials		Built for Destruction: Tornado		Hidden Worlds: Australia's Dingo Island		Top 5 - Hurricane		WOW! Expedition [illegible]		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Crash Scene Investigation Greek Ferry Disaster		Sport Talk: Tomb Raiders	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Hanggang Sa Huling Bala				Tol Ako Naman				Pangako Ng Kahapon				Minsan May Pangarap				Doppelganger
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	North Shore		Australia's Next Top Model		Jake In Progress	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports			GWS 32-2006	Tennis, WTA [illegible] Classic SF1				Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's- Russia		2006 FIBA World C'ship Games: QF1				Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's- Canada		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's- Zagreb Croatia	
Sports Plus				Golf Today	Inside the PGA	World Game		[illegible] 500 Highlights		BM Wall Climbing	Nopi Tunervision 11	Ultimate Fighting C'ship Best of '02				Raceworld		U.S. Open '06 Day2	
Star Movies			[illegible] Jim (3:40 PM)				Raging Sharks (5:20 PM)			[illegible] (6:55 PM)				Hollow Man			Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London		
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Life As We Know It		Life As We Know It		Kevin Hill		Seinfeld	Life As We Know It
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion	Smallville (8:15 PM)		Gilmore Girls		News Central	[illegible] (10:45PM)		MYXlog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

HP LaserJet 3055
invent
Versatile and reliable, it lets you produce professional documents quickly with fast print, fax, scan and copy functions, plus network connectivity.
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
+632 727 3801 • 744 3000 www.ics.com.ph



BUSINESS
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph



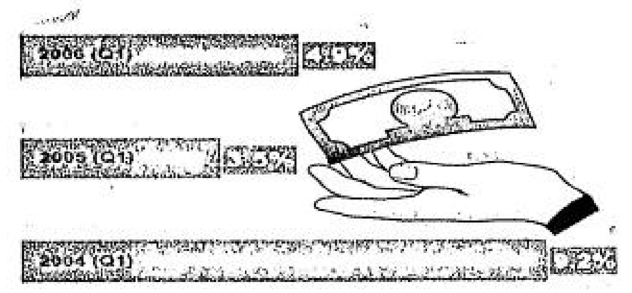
A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Economy grew 5.3-5.8% in 2nd quarter

INQUIRER MONITOR
Figures that matter in our nation's life

Total compensation up 4.9 percent
(First quarter 2004 to 2006, growth rate in percent)

Total compensation, which represents the total salaries and wages paid out by all industries, grew further by 4.9 percent in the first quarter. Higher wages and salaries were recorded for finance, transportation and communication, real estate, and electricity and water.



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board
Kate V. Pedroso Inquirer Research

Top performers: Agriculture, exports, OFW inflows

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY WAS EXPECTED TO HAVE EXPANDed by 5.3-5.8 percent in the second quarter from a year ago on robust export earnings and farm output as well as a resilient services sector, according to an official of the National Economic and Development Authority.

In the first quarter, gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.5 percent.

In an interview yesterday, Neda director for policy planning Dennis Arroyo said strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers mitigated the adverse impact of high oil prices and the two-percentage-point increase in the value-added tax rate starting February.

"You would expect that with high oil prices

ECONOMY/ B2

6-month, 1-year T-bill rates continue to decline

THE BENCHMARK 91-DAY TREASURY bill rate bottomed out while longer tenors fell further at yesterday's auction as the cash-rich banking sector continued to swamp the government's securities offering.

The average 91-day rate, used by banks as reference for pricing loans, inched up to 5.381 percent from 5.38 percent at the previous auction.

However, the 182-day rate averaged lower at 6.25 percent from 6.397 percent and the 364-day yield, at 7.264 percent from 7.339 in the previous auction.

All three tenors were oversubscribed, allowing the government to make full awards of P2 billion in each.

Tenders amounted to P22.59 billion or nearly four times the offer. Bids for the 91-day paper was twice the offering while the 182- and 364-day securities were four times and five times oversubscribed,.

"I think this is a general move of optimism and (macro) fundamentals being comfortable to investors in general. That leads to continued improvement in the rates and the outlook for the rates," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in an interview.

The sideways movement of the 91-day rate, he said, was consistent with the market's view that the yields were low enough.

Although the 91-day paper was twice oversubscribed, the market was much more attracted to the longer term issues.

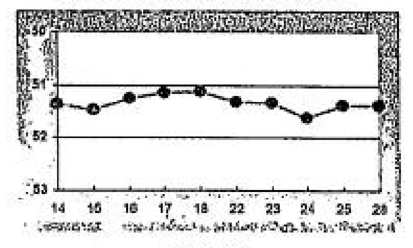
Cruz explained that the market's strong appetite for the longer tenors reflected their general aim to take advantage of the higher yield and of the favorable view for the longer haul.

"It reflects their view on a stable positive interest rate environment, given the benign global interest rate outlook

6-MONTH/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



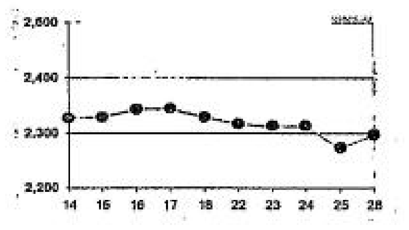
AUGUST

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.38 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 28, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.06 percent higher yesterday as bargain-hunting in select blue chips took hold following a five-day decline, dealers said.

SHARES/ B5

IN THIS ISSUE
BSP to cap growth in money supply /B2
Examples of English humor/B5

Summit set to boost RP competitiveness

By Ronnel W. Domingo

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS are doing consultations with businessmen, academics and other groups as a prelude to a Competitiveness Summit to be held on Sept. 29 where an "action agenda" would be crafted rather than just discuss the issues.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the summit was meant to address concerns about the country's laggard and apparently worsening status in terms of global competitiveness.

The country has placed 133rd among 155 countries, according to the latest ranking by the World Bank.

Identified during pre-summit meetings were factors that encompass financing, the flow of transactions and their costs to business, infrastructure, energy, management and human resources.

"The Competitiveness Summit is meant to be a venue where various stakeholders in the economy would commit to action points that would enhance the country's competitiveness," Favila said.

"It aims at securing commitments from key government agencies and private sector organizations on achievable action points for 2006 until 2007," the trade chief added.

Factors that would be addressed during the summit include urgent measures to be undertaken and their impact in improving the country's competitiveness rankings as well as those that would increase its competitiveness in international trade in services.

"To ensure that only implementable action points would be reported out during the Summit, pre-summit consultations with government agencies, business sectors, academe, and other private organizations have been scheduled in the months of July, August and September," Favila said.

One such meeting gathered representatives from the Asian Institute of Management; Management Association of the Philippines; DTI's Center for Industrial Competitiveness; the office of the Presidential Adviser on International Competitiveness; the Employers Confederation of the Philippines' Institute for Productivity and Competitiveness; Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Philippine Exporters Confederation; Export Development Council; Board of Investments; Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Philippine Quality Award Foundation.

In this meeting, the leaders agreed that cutting red tape should be the focus of efforts as

SUMMIT/ B5

OUR PEOPLE GO TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH FOR YOU.
EVGENIY DAROVSKIKH GOES THREE TIMES A WEEK.
>> EVGENIY DAROVSKIKH
>> DHL COURIER
REGION: RUSSIAN FAR EAST
ASSIGNMENT: GET THERE. GET BACK.
ALL THE WAY DHL

It's people like Evgeniy Darovskikh and the more than 285,000 employees worldwide that give DHL unrivaled local knowledge. Our fleet of 76,000 land, air and sea vehicles in over 220 countries and territories make it possible to cover the globe and meet deadlines everyday. It's the spirit of can do and the experience of know how. It's the people who go all the way to get the job done. Please call the DHL Customer Service at 02 8117000 (Manila), 032 3417400 (Cebu) or Toll-free 1800 1888 0345, or visit www.dhl.com/alltheway

BSP to cap growth in money supply

Government out to maintain inflation target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS wants to cap the growth in the country's money supply at 11 percent next year in order to protect its 4-5 percent inflation target, an internal monetary study showed.

Documents recently presented to the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board indicated that if the growth in domestic liquidity, or m3, would expand by 12 percent in January next year, the targeted inflation rate would be breached, hitting 5.11 percent.

If the growth in m3 would further accelerate to 13 percent, the BSP simulations showed that the 2007 inflation rate would also rise to 5.18 percent.

The BSP's latest data as of June this year showed that the m3 had expanded at a rate of 13.4 percent, faster than the 12.7 percent growth recorded in May.

Domestic liquidity or m3 is the broadest measure of money, and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

Aside from the growth in liquidity, which exerts inflationary pressures from the demand side, the BSP simulations show that supply side shocks from oil prices remain a threat to inflation.

Should Dubai oil prices stay at $73.22 per barrel for the rest of the year, the BSP simulations showed that the inflation rate for next year would likely be at the upper end of the 4-5 percent inflation target range.

"Increase in oil prices beyond the baseline values may result in breach of inflation target," the study said.

At $80 per barrel beginning July this year, for instance, inflation for 2007 was projected to rise to 5.17 percent. The inflation rate is seen to further rise to 5.47 percent at $90 per barrel and to 5.75 percent at $100 per barrel.

The same study also revealed that trust accounts posed a big challenge for monetary authorities for these could result in volatility in domestic liquidity which, in turn, could make inflation-targeting more difficult.

The study suggested a more systematic monitoring of trust accounts, which are not included in the M3 computation. According to BSP documents, the trust accounts are said to be causing distortions in measurements.

"Portfolio decisions by holders of trust accounts might lead to volatility in m3 and complicate achievement of the inflation target," the study said.

UITFs, which the BSP promoted following its order on banks to phase out common trust funds, are pooled trust funds operated by a trust entity.

These funds, which are exempted from reserve requirement as they are independent from the bank proper, are marked to market values, unlike the CTFs.

The documents showed that while the BSP's simulations could not find any significant co-relation between trust accounts and the inflation equation, developments over the last two years since the UITFs were introduced to the Philippine market showed they were creating a stir in domestic liquidity.

When the BSP ordered the phaseout of CTFs two years ago, for instance, many investors did not immediately migrate to UITFs and, instead, chose to place their money in traditional bank deposits instead. This measure of domestic liquidity thus surged to 15 percent in August 2005.

But as the market started to become familiar with the UITF as an investment alternative, there was a recorded shift from bank deposits to UITFs in the succeeding months, trimming m3 growth back to single-digit levels.

During the UITF hysteria in May this year, m3 growth again surged to 12.7 percent as investors who sold their portfolios moved their funds back to deposits.

According to the BSP study, trust funds flow back into the balance sheet of banks after some time. Around 12 percent are captured directly in the form of currency in circulation and deposits, while the remaining 88 percent are invested in loans, stocks, real estate and other assets, which eventually revert to the banks' balance sheets.

IN A MALL FOR A STROLL

A family takes a stroll in one of Metro Manila's numerous shopping malls. Roughly 8.5 million Filipinos are working abroad. The money they send back home fuels consumption that, in turn, drives more than 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

REUTERS

Sleep of the mind

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AND SO THE BRIGHT LEGAL MINDS AT the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas are not sleeping after all.

Last week, this section reported that the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board disqualified SSS president Corazon de la Paz from double-timing as chair of EPCIB.

Now that was a historic move by the BSP.

In all my 27 years in the business beat, it was the first and only time that I heard of the BSP disqualifying anybody from serving as chair of any bank.

To think that it also involved the country's third largest bank Equitable-PCI Bank, which only happens to be the takeover target of Tessie Sy, who is the daughter of billionaire mall operator Henry Sy, founder of the SM group, which also owns and controls two other banks, namely, Banco de Oro (BDO) and China Banking Corporation (CBC).

Actually, the Monetary Board decision resulted from the complaint of Martin Romualdez, who sits in the EPCIB board for Trans Middle East Equities (TMEQ).

Early this year, Tessie Sy handpicked De La Paz to replace Romualdez as chair of EPCIB.

Romualdez used to be an ally of Tessie Sy in her fight with the Go family, who used to control EPCIB.

But then, after Tessie Sy bought out the Go family, she and Romualdez eventually fought over the SM group's move to take over EPCIB through a strange share-swap, no-cash-out merger with Banco de Oro.

Come to think of it, in all recent bank mergers in this country, and I mean all of them, the buying bank always paid cash for the target bank. Not shares!

And so in his letter to the BSP, the main beef of Romualdez was actually what he called "conflict of interest" in EPCIB, especially in the light of the SM group's no-cash takeover scheme.

He noted that the SM group controlled BDO and CBC as majority owner. Yet even with less than 30 percent ownership of EPCIB, the SM group also controlled the bank.

That, according to Romualdez, was bad for the publicly listed EPCIB and, thus, for its public investors and other minority stockholders such as the SSS and the GSIS.

De La Paz became EPCIB chair several months ago.

Why did the Monetary Board allow it at that time? It even waited for Romualdez to complain before it could do something about the violation.

And everybody thought that, as part of its job, the BSP is supposed to monitor all the banks for compliance with the rules. Unbidden!

Now, as everyone in banking knows, the SM group also hired former BSP deputy governor Alberto Reyes for the high-paying position of EPCIB board adviser.

Somebody please tell me quick if Reyes and De La Paz do not see eye to eye. I mean, why did the BSP have to single out De La Paz?

I am sure it was not because, at the time the Monetary Board made the decision, De La Paz was abroad again, although SSS employees have picketed the SSS head office to protest the chronic absence of De La Paz.

Based on news at the stock market, up until yesterday the GSIS had a standing offer from the SM group for the purchase of the GSIS holdings in EPICB at an attractive price of P95 per share.

There's none for the much bigger (and higher premium) SSS holdings.

* * *

Between us girls, business people are in awe of this handsome devil who is a somebody in the insurance business, going around town in all sorts of luxury cars, towing with him a convoy of SUVs and vans filled with bodyguards who, in turn, look like they had military or police training.

According to my info, one of the jobs of the bodyguards is traffic management.

As a measure against traffic jams, which happen at almost every other street corner of the metropolis, the bodyguards quickly alight from the SUVs and the vans to clear the way for the bigshot.

I don't think that, although they may have a couple of bodyguards of their own, even the Cabinet members and senators enjoy such road discourtesy.

I only know that the multibillionaires of this country will not even dare to think of showing off with such a shameless demonstration of money, influence and power.

In the first place, why would somebody as rich and attractive (to the opposite sex) as our insurance man-about-town need the protection of so many bodyguards?

Does he fear bodily harm from somebody, say, because over the years he has created a lot of enemies?

I know for a fact that he created friends at the BIR. Well, the thick file of his company's tax case, involving P800 million in unpaid DOC stamp tax, already disappeared from the face of the earth.

Nobody in the BIR can locate it.

Economy grew 5.3-5.8% in 2nd quarter

From page B1

and the VAT (rate increase), you would see less consumption, but then domestic demand has been supported by the counter-factor of OFW inflows," Arroyo said.

In the first half of the year, OFWs remitted through banks some $6 billion, based on the latest data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Domestic demand, supported by strong OFW inflows, accounts for about two-thirds of the country's domestic output.

On the supply side, Arroyo said the agriculture sector was expected to have posted the highest growth at 6-6.6 percent, followed by services at 5.6-6 percent and industry at 4.8-5.2 percent.

The recovery in the agriculture sector was underpinned by strong production in *palay* and corn, increased aquaculture output and strong demand for cash crops like mango, banana, coffee and abaca, Arroyo said.

The Department of Agriculture earlier said a recovery in rice and corn harvests after last year's drought helped perk up the country's year-on-year growth in farm output to an estimated 6.41 percent in the second quarter from only 3.94 percent in the first quarter of 2006.

The industry sector, on the other hand, was supported by double-digit export earnings. The export sector now accounts for about 40 percent of the country's domestic output.

Based on the latest report from the National Statistics Office, the country's trade deficit shrunk to $1.83 billion in the first semester from $3.19 billion a year ago as robust earnings from electronics exports mitigated the impact of skyrocketing oil prices.

Arroyo noted that production of metals was also supported by the high global prices of gold and copper.

However, he said the growth of utilities in the second quarter had softened due to the oil price increases.

Meanwhile, the services sector was boosted by the boom in business process outsourcing and trading.

"Trading was supported by the expansion of the malls, for instance, with SM putting more malls across the country. The opening of classes in June also supported trading," Arroyo said.

He said the banking and finance sector also remained robust, supported by the strong OFW inflows.

Given the latest developments, Arroyo said the economic performance was on track with the government's target growth in GDP of 5.5-6.1 percent for the full year.

The government is scheduled to release the official second-quarter economic report card on Aug. 31.

6-month, 1-year T-bill . . .

From page B1

and it's also helped by the fact that geopolitical situation is better," Cruz said.

"There's so much liquidity floating around," he said.

While the Bureau of the Treasury had P1.1 billion worth of maturing government securities to settle this week and it accepted P6 billion in treasury bill bids during yesterday's auction, he said the market still had so much cash to invest.

Despite the downtrend in interest rates that favors loan growth, bank lending in the country remained anemic as the banking system was constrained by soured assets that piled up since the Asian currency turmoil of 1997.

MSI PAYROLL
It ensures FAST, COMPLETE and ACCURATE computation of payroll and generation of government reportorial requirements.
Attention CPA's & Business Consultancy Agents: Refer our products and earn extra income INSTANTLY.
OTHER PRODUCTS:
MSI DTR (Daily Time Recording)
MSI PIS (Personnel Info. System)
PROFIT Retail System:
- Inventory System/Sales Manager/ Point-of-Sale/Purchase Order
Inquiry on Profit Retail call.....
734-8858 / 736-6763 / 735-4892
FREE DEMO within Metro Manila area only
METROSOFT, INC.
PACKAGED SYSTEMS APPLICATION PROVIDER
LG1 Cityland 9, Dela Rosa Condo., Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel.: 892-2798 / 894-1525 / 892-4530 / 892-4536 / 892-2808 / 894-1043 Fax No.: 892-2795 E-mail: msi@vasia.com

NTC seeks ways to curb telcos' unfair practices

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission has unveiled a number of ways it can curb unfair practices in the telco industry, such as predatory pricing and limiting access of smaller carriers to the backbone networks of dominant players.

The commission said these practices are observed in carriers with so-called significant market power or SMP.

The commission noted, however, that not only carriers with large market shares may be considered to have SMP. A carrier that has integrated facilities with an affiliate network may be able to cross-subsidize its services and engage in predatory pricing But smaller players with superior technology may have the ability to later dominate the market.

The NTC blames SMP for the inequality in the local telecommunications sector, where the largest two among 73 local exchange carriers account for 75 percent of the subscriber base, while the biggest two cellular operators, PLDT-Smart and Globe Telecom, control 96 percent of the mobile service market.

"Also revealing is the fact that the corporate 'bottomline' in 2004 of the two largest carriers showed a net income of P39.2 billion against the net loss of P2.3 billion of the next two largest carriers (Digitel-Sun Cellular and Bayantel)," the NTC said in the paper.

To curb predatory and unfair practices in the telco market, the NTC is considering implementing the following:

- Require the dominant telcos to make public a reference interconnection offer that will limit the power of large networks to impose unfair conditions for sharing their facilities;
- Require the largest carriers to provide access to unbundled network elements, allowing operators to access these components; the move would lower the economic barriers to entry by allowing a new supplier to combine components from existing networks with its own;
- Require the large players to undergo an independent audit of interconnection and access operations; and,
- Require the dominant carriers to allow smaller players to resell their end-user telecommunication services.

Implementing the regulations would not be so easy, however, since it involves a comprehensive study of the current market and individual strengths of the players.

"It (comprehensive study) will cost a lot of time and money," NTC commissioner Ronald Solis said.

He added that in order to save time and resources, the NTC may start implementing SMP regulations in certain areas and then expand the coverage over time.

Transco seals sale contracts worth ₱152M

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL TRANSMISSION Corp. (Transco) has signed three new sub-transmission asset sale contracts worth P152 million with distribution utilities and electric cooperatives in Visayas and Mindanao.

Transco forged the contracts with the Visayan Electric Co.-Cebu 1 Electric Cooperative Inc. (Veco-Cebeco 1) consortium, Cebu 2 Electric Cooperative Inc. (Cebeco 2) and Cotabato Light and Power Co. (CLPC), less than a week after three similar deals were closed with Luzón power distributors.

The Veco-Cebeco deal involved P68.8 million worth of sub-transmission assets, including the 69-kilovolt (kV) Naga-Sobonga-Dumanjug and Sibonga-Alcoy lines.

These two lines span 82.13 circuit-kilometers and included 516 structures.

The P61.3-million contract with Cebeco 2 involved 74.82 circuit-kilometers of 69-kV lines, including the Compostela-Danao, Danao-Lugo and Lugo-Medellin lines, as well as 564 structures.

The CLPC contract involved the sale of the 18.5-circuit-kilometer Tacurong-Cotabato-Nuling 69-kV line, including 141 structures, for P21.8 million.

To date, Transco has signed 35 divestment deals worth P1.87 billion with distribution utilities and electric cooperatives nationwide.

"If things proceed as planned, we will reach P2 billion by end of August and surpass the P2.4-billion mark by year's end," Transco president Alan Ortiz said in a statement yesterday. "All proceeds will go to the National Treasury."

In an earlier interview, Transco sub-transmission divestment department manager Ernesto Daluz said the state firm estimated total sub-transmission asset sales to hit around P4 billion, out of the P7-billion worth of assets that it had.

This was based on interested buyers and their capacity to buy, Daluz said.

"Only 70 percent of the 107 identified power distributors are interested to buy the assets," Daluz said. "Of these, only 75 percent have the capacity to buy. With the contracts we've signed so far, we're almost past the halfway mark, in terms of our target."

Cebu power beefed up for Asean meet

By Abigail L. Ho

IN PREPARATION FOR THE 12TH ASSOCIAtion of Southeast Asian Nations summit in December, the National Power Corp. has deployed and switched on Power Barge 101 (PB 101) to beef up the power supply in Cebu.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar said the recommissioning of the power barge would ensure that the power-hungry Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) grid, particularly Cebu City, would have adequate power supply when the Asean Summit takes place in three months.

The power barge will be temporarily moored in Muelle Osmeña to augment and provide back-up power to Napocor's existing capacities in the area.

It will likewise serve as a peaking plant during peak periods, together with the Cebu diesel power plant I in Naga, as well as function as a "black start" for the immediate restoration of power to the Cebu grid in case of a major power outage, according to Napocor.

Likewise, PB 101 is expected to boost the power supply in the CNP grid, by ensuring that available capacity for export to Negros and to Panay will be maximized.

Apart from additional power supply, Napocor said PB 101 would also improve power quality in the grid as the additional input from the power barge would result in better system voltage.

PB 101 was first transferred to Cebu from Bohol in December last year. It was drydocked at the Keppel Shipyard in June and transferred to Mactan, Cebu last Aug. 22.

Cebu currently has a dependable capacity of almost 670 megawatts (MW) and a peak demand of 454 MW.

Aside from better power supply in Cebu, Napocor said the power situation in the island of Panay would likewise get a boost, with the completion this month of another unit of the Dingle diesel power plant in Iloilo.

This unit would add another 10 MW to the island's power supply, Napocor said.

TLV®
PRODUCTS
WITH FLUID CONTROL ENGINEERING
- ENERGY CONSERVERS
- PRODUCTION IMPROVERS

ARMSTRONG
CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY
358 G. ARANETA AVE., SANTOL, QUEZON CITY
TELS. 7135211 TO 13 • 7135191 FAX 7135182

Fingerprint Bundy Clock System
T4
Bio-I
Affordable & Reliable
- PC not included (you may use existing PC)
- Hardware and software included
- T4 can operate without PC
for as low as
P7900
We Accept Dealers
"Awarded 2005 No. 1 & Most Outstanding Fingerprint Bundy Clock System in the Philippines"
MYSOLUTIONS
Unit 8, 201 Del Monte Ave., Masambong, Quezon City (In front of Shell Gas Station & Talayan Village Gate) for more inquiries: contact 364-4068 / 367-8188 / 365-8488 / 365-7313
website: www.mysolutions.com.ph e-mail: sales@mysolutions.com.ph

Northstar Motors Corporation
1122 EDSA, BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY
DIRECT IMPORT FROM JAPAN
ALSO AVAILABLE:
- Bulldozers, Graders, Forklifts, Walk Behind Roller, Bobcat
- Cargo Trucks w/ Crane, Dump Trucks, Tower Lights
- Generators, Engine Welders, Air Compressors & Jack Hammers
TELS.: (632) 362-6071, (632) 330-6815, (632) 330-6817, (632) 455-2870 TO 71
FAX: (632) 330-6816
E-mail: northstar@skydsl.com.ph

7.0% FIXED GUARANTEED TAX FREE
Open a PSBank Prime Time Deposit now!
- Affordable for a minimum of PhP 50,000
- 5-year placement
- Enjoy monthly interest earnings
* Quoted rate is on a per annum basis and subject to change without prior notice.
Get it now at any PSBank branch.
PSBank Prime TIME DEPOSIT
Text PSBANK PRIME <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000

✓ BEST PRICE ✓ BEST SERVICE
« WE ACCEPT TRADE-IN »
Canon
iR-1210
Unit can be hooked-up to a computer.
- Digital Copier & Printer
12 cpm
PRICE P39,950
RICOH
Aficio MP 1500
- Digital / 15 cpm
- Very fast warm up and first copy speed
- Full A3 compatibility guaranteed
₱ 55,000
CALL 722-8888 For Sales & Service OR VISIT www.elitemachinesinc.com
ELITE MACHINES, INC.
QUEZON CITY: 1465 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City (BESIDE KAMUNING BRIDGE) CALL 722-8888
MAKATI: G/F, LRDC Building, 22 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 8877238 · 8877256 · 8877268 8877280 8877295
MANILA: Rm.301 Pacific Bldg., 460 Quintin Paredes corner Gandara Sts., Binondo, Manila 2476012, 2474030 to 33 Fax: 2473892
CEBU: Espiritu Building, 33 Gen. Maxilom Ave., Cebu City Tel. (032) 2236711 to 16 Fax: (032) 2336718 or 26
COPYTRADE
COPYTRADE BLDG. 550 MF JHOCSON St. Sampaloc, Manila TELS 749-8155, 749-8156, 781 3472, 742 8416
GOLDSTAR
Door 2, Lua Bldg., Quirino Ave. Tel (082) 2270321-23 Cor J P Laurel St. Davao City Fax (082) 2270321
RABSONS BUSINESS SYSTEM
PRESS CLUB Bldg. A. Velez cor A. Luna Sts., Cagayan De Oro City (088) 857-5735, 857-6308

AIM CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
HEALTH CARE SERVICE DELIVERY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2006

Out-migration of Filipino health care workers has significantly affected the delivery of health care services to our people. Current trends indicate this will continue for more years to come but quality and availability of health care services need not suffer.

To help confront this issue, we invite you to attend a 3-day Health Care Service Delivery Management Program that starts on September 6, 2006.

This program will focus on **Process-Oriented Strategy** to assure quality in delivery of health care services. Topics that will be covered by AIM's specialists include:
- Implementing Total Quality Management (TQM) in Health Care
- Designing and Managing Customer Service Delivery Systems in Health Care
- Delighting Customers in Health Care
- Balanced Scorecard in Health Care
- Best Practices in Continuous Improvement in Health Care
- Implementation Issues in the Local Setting

SCHEDULE OF OTHER HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS:
- 5th Marketing Health Care Services Program [October 25 to 27, 2006]
- 5th Health Care Financial Management Program [February 7 to 9, 2007]
- 2nd Human Resource Management in Health Care [April 25 to 27, 2007]
- 5th Strategic Management in the Health Care Industry [June 27 to 29, 2007]

PROGRAM FACULTY:
Prof. Rene Domingo. He teaches operations management, total quality management (TQM), quantitative analysis, service delivery, management information systems, and business process reengineering. He is the author of "Quality Means Survival"
Prof. Francisco Bernardo, Jr. His areas of specialization are operations management and systems analysis. He also teaches operations management and technology for development in the Master in Business Management, Master in Management and Master in Development Management Programs. Professor Bernardo was the Dean of the Institute from 1990 to 1995.
Prof. Emmanuel A. Leyco. Director of AIM Health Management Program. He specializes in public policy analysis, public finance, health care finance, and international development issues.

For inquiries and reservation call:
Ms. Malou Puzon; Ms. Liza Munsayac; Mr. Lyndon Constantino
Tel: +632 892-4011 loc. 139, 343, 364
Email healthmgmt@aim.edu
EQUIS ACCREDITED
Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, Joseph R. McMicking Campus, 123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1260 Philippines

An Open Letter On The Oil Spill

On Aug.11 2006 a tanker carrying a reported 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil sank off the coast of Guimaras. Over 200,000 liters of oil have spilled, damaging marine resources in some of the most ecologically sensitive areas in the Philippines. If the oil leak continues unabated we will have one of the most serious environmental catastrophes of this nation. The damage is already immeasurable affecting not only marine habitat but also the livelihood of some of our most deprived countrymen, for years to come.

We, at the Philippine Business for The Environment (PBE), are calling on all concerned, particularly the leaders of our communities (government, industry and civil society) to urgently address the issues brought about by this disaster. Specifically,

1. Let us all move forward in solidarity - This is no time for finger appointing , turf protection and grandstanding. There is an urgent need to contain the impact of this disaster, working together as one nation. This requires technical and financial support which should be harnessed from all sectors. Rather than shirking from responsibility, we should all step up to offer what we have.
2. Let us immediately focus on the communities affected Whether from fishing, tourism and related activities, the focus of our activities should be to immediately rebuild on a sustainable basis the economic foundation of our affected countrymen. Front end, one time dole outs will not suffice.
3. Let us be organized - Support has been forthcoming from many sectors with more being offered, but much of it is being dissipated in confusion, ignorance, and bureaucracy. NGOs, business, local and national government should organize themselves to ensure that support is channeled at the earliest time to the highest priority areas. Let us work smart.

We at the PBE are offering the support of our 50 member companies to address the ecological and economic disaster caused by the oil spill in Guimaras. Our membership consists of some of the largest Philippine corporations who over the last 20 years have banded together to address environmental issues in terms of education, technical support, waste recycling, advocacy and policy formulation.

Let us all step up. Time is of the essence!

The Philippine Business for the Environment

Edgar O. Chua, PBE Chairman
Chairman, Shell Companies in the Philippines

Leonardo B. Alejandrino, PBE President
Chairman, Investcorp, Inc.

Washington Z. Sycip, PBE Honorary Chairman; Founder, SGV Group of Companies

TRUSTEES

Editha I. Alcantara	President, C. Alcantara and Sons, Inc.
Howard D. Belton	Chairman & CEO, Unilever Philippines, Inc.
Cora PB. Claudio	President, Earth Asia Institute
Corazon S. de la Paz	President & CEO, Social Security System
Elisea G. Gozun	Chairperson, Philippine Earth Day Network
Oscar J. Hilado	Chairman, Philippine Investment Management, Inc
Elpidio L. Ibañez	President & COO,First Philippine Holdings Corporation
Pedro E. Roxas	Group Corporate Chairman Central Azucarera de Don Pedro
Cesar A. Virata	Corporate Vice - Chairman, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation

ADVT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT STAFF
MALACAÑANG

The Presidential Management Staff (PMS), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Name of Project	**PROCUREMENT OF PMS JANITORIAL SERVICES**
Location	PMS Building, Arlegui St., San Miguel, Manila
Brief Description	The prospective bidders shall bid and provide housekeeping / janitorial services of the 12-storey PMS Building including its Penthouse and roof deck.
Approved Budget for the contract	The proposed contract has an approved budget of **Two Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos, Philippine Currency (PhP 2,200,000.00)**, to be charged against the 2006 budget of PMS.
Contract Duration	One (1) year
Delivery Period	01 December 2006

Name of Project	**PROCUREMENT OF PMS PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES**
Location	PMS Building, Arlegui St., San Miguel, Manila
Brief Description	The prospective bidders shall bid and provide the PMS with its photocopying requirements
Approved Budget for the contract	The proposed contract has an approved budget of **Six Hundred Thousand Pesos, Philippine Currency, (PhP 600,000.00)**, to be charged against the 2006 budget of PMS.
Contract Duration	One (1) year
Delivery Period	01 December 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution thereof. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Instruction to Bidders. The Eligibility Check/Screening, as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise knwon as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedulds of activities are listed, as follows.

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE	TIME	VENUE
JANITORIAL SERVICES			
Issuance of Bid Documents	22 Aug. – 05 Oct. 2006		PMS Legal Office
Pre-Bid Conference	21 September 2006	2:00 PM	8/f Operations Rm.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	05 October 2006	1:00 PM	8/f Operations Rm.
Bid Opening	05 October 2006	immediately after the checking of the eligibility requirements	8/f Operations Rm.
PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES			
Issuance of Bid Documents	22 Aug. – 05 Oct. 2006		PMS Legal Office
Pre-Bid Conference	22 September 2006	2:00 PM	8/f Operations Rm.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	05 October 2006	1:00 PM	8/f Operations Rm.
Bid Opening	06 October 2006	immediately after the checking of the eligibility requirements	8/f Opeations Rm.

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos, Philippine currency (PhP 1,000.00) for the procurement of janitorial services and Five Hundred Pesos, Philippine currency (Php 500.00) for the procurement photocopying services to the PMS Cashier.

Only bids of eligible bidders shall be opened in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives, as evidenced by the Special Power of Attorney or Board Resolution. The operating of bids shall be done right after the checking of the eligibity requirements.

The PMS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defects therein, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to accept only the offer that is most advantageous to the government.

The PMS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid.

(Sgd.) ASST. SEC. ELIZABETH M. GONZALES
PMS-BAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 22 & 29, 2006)

Medical Utilization Coordinator

- *Excellent Communication and Presentation Skills*
- *Self-motivated*
- *Goal/Results-oriented*
- *Must be a Team Player*
- *Computer skills familiar with MS Excel and Word*
- *Professional Relationship Skills*
- *Medical Graduate and/or Practicing Physicians preferred*

Send resumé to

K&A INsurance Brokers, Inc.
Unit 6-0, 6th Floor, Vernida 1 Condominium
120 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village,
Makati City, Philippines
ATTN: Isabel Tolentino

Tel: (632) 759-3122, 23 & 25
Fax: (632) 759-3126
Email address: raschnabel@globelines.com.ph

PNOC
PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5288

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Winch Trailer Mounted with Accessories under GQ 616730
Approved Budget: PHP 4,900,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Anthony E. Ciriaco** starting **August 29, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 07, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Office Wall Clock Time) of September 21, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2006)

PNOC
PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5389

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Computer Supplies – HP Inks & Cartridges under Annual Procurement Program
Approved budget PhP 3,600,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Winthrop Z. Gutierrez** starting **August 28, 2006**, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **August 31, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department, Ground Floor, Building 5 at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Office Wall Clock Time) of September 14, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) Francis M. Dolor
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI – Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2006)

BEST BUY!

INVITATION TO BID

Sancerre Corporation will receive sealed bids on September 8, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at its office at the 27th/F, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City for the condominium units at **Olympic Heights, Tower II, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City** as follows:

Unit No.	Description	Area	Minimum Bid Price
22C	3 Bedroom Unit	77 sq.mtrs.	P4,204.200
22D	3 Bedroom Unit	77 sq.mtrs.	P4,204.200
23E	3 Bedroom Unit	77 sq.mtrs.	P4,235,000
23F	3 Bedroom Unit	77 sq.mtrs.	P4,235,000
26A	3 Bedroom Unit	77 sq.mtrs.	P4,327,400
26F	3 Bedroom Unit	77 sq.mtrs.	P4,327,400
28E	2 Bedroom Unit	77 sq.mtrs.	P4,389,000
28D	3 Bedroom Unit	77 sq.mtrs.	P4,389,000
B2-59	Single Parking Unit		P485,000
B2-60	Single Parking Unit		P485,000
B2-61	Single Parking Unit		P485,000
B2-63	Tandem Parking Unit		P485,000
B2-64	Tandem Parking Unit		P485,000
B2-67	Single Parking Unit		P485,000
B2-80	Single Parking Unit		P485,000
B2-147	Single Parking Unit		P485,000

BID TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. All bidders shall be required to submit together with their sealed bid, a bid deposit equivalent to 10% of bid price via a cashier's check or manager's check.
2. For installment sale, maximum terms is five (5) years at 14% interest rate. To qualify for installment sale, 35% downpayment is required.
3. Sancerre Corp. reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities and accept only the most advantageous to Sancerre Corp. or opt to negotiate with any prospective buyer. The decision of Sancerre Corp. is final and binding.
4. For interested buyers, you may secure bid documents at Sancerre Corporation, 27th/F, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City. For inspection of the condominium units kindly call Vicky or Grace at 421-7189.
5. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Asset Management Group, Sancerre Corporation, 27th/F, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission of sealed bids is on September 8, 2006 at 2pm. Kindly be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by Sancerre Corporation.

(PDI – Aug. 28 & 29, 2006)

---

iSave COMPUTER www.isave.com.ph
Everything your computer need's!

PIV 1.7Ghz Package	PIII 800 Mhz Package	PIII 500 Mhz Package	Celeron 500 Mhz	15inch LCD Monitor
17" Monitor w/ Keyboard & Mouse	17" Monitor w/ Keyboard & Mouse	15" Monitor w/ Keyboard & Mouse	[illegible]	
P 12,990	P 6,990	P 4,990	P 2,490	P 7,200

- Araneta 716-6795
- Cainta 647-5440
- Cubao 438-7418
- Fairview 431-4307
- Gilmore 412-5807
- Gilmore(MIP) 416-4117
- Junction 240-2494
- Lagro 417-0307
- Makati 886-4169
- Marikina 933-6068
- Novaliches 416-8080
- Ortigas 717-1987
- Recto 493-0502
- Valenzuela 440-0142
- Angeles City 045-626-1487
- Batangas City 043-980-2046
- Davao City 082-227-6799
- Head Office 928-6260

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DESK OFFICERS
(within Quezon City)

Applicants must be:

- ➢ graduate of any 4-year degree, preferably in Communication Arts or Social Sciences
- ➢ computer literate (Microsoft Access/Web page)
- ➢ female, 5'4" in height
- ➢ not more than 25 years old
- ➢ with pleasing personality
- ➢ articulate/fluent in English
- ➢ preferably can speak at least 2 dialects apart from Tagalog

Send your resumé with scanned picture to:
ready_action_line@yahoo.com
or fax to (02) 922-7767

Deadline of submission : **September 4, 2006**

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills,
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested authorized dealer/distributor to bid for the supply of the following vehicles:

a. Four (4) units Asian Utility Vehicle 2.5 Diesel Engine, 5-Speed Manual Transmission
b. One (1) unit 4x2 Pick-Up 2.5 Diesel, Manual Transmission

The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid are as follow:

a. Php 3,040,000.00 – Asian Utility Vehicles
b. Php 920,000.00 – 4x2 Pick-Up

Source of Funding: Unprogrammed Fund R.A. No. 9336

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by the eligible bidder starting **August 29 to September 6, 2006** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. For further details, please contact Asst. Director Romeo O. Dauag at Tel. No. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid conference will be on **September 6, 2006, 1:30 P.M.** at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission and opening of Technical and Financial Proposal will be on **September 18, 2006, 1:30 P.M.** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building and immediately thereafter, opening of bids will be held at the Hearing Room No. 2, Compliance and Enforcement Department (CED) 5th floor, SEC Building. Bids submitted after 1:30 P.M. will no longer be accepted.

Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE AQUINO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 29, 2006)

BUY * SELL * PAWN
WATCHES JEWELRY DIAMONDS
BEST OFFER IN TOWN
8342886
8040484

WE BUY
at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2
5646593 5897041
0917-8473744

JOB Market COMPACT

Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.

Advertise in JobMarket Compact.

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

JOB Market

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 252,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CURRENT TRANSFORMERS FOR THE CAVITE ECONOMIC ZONE.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of the following outdoor use, window type current transformers:

a)	Ratio: 400 : 5A	6 pcs.
b)	Ratio: 600 : 5A	15 pcs.
c)	Ratio: 800 : 5A	21 pcs.
d)	Ratio: 1,200 : 5A	6 pcs.

3. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least five (5) years in the Supply and Delivery of Current Transformers and is able to supply, install and configure the proposed brand. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 29 August to 15 September 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference to those who secured the Bidding Documents on 21 September 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 04 October 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC.* Late Bids shall not be accepted
9. Bid opening shall be on 04 October 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
10. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
11. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www. peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2006)

OBITUARIES

ANITA A. GALVEZ-SANTOS, MD

Joined her Creator
on August 20, 2006 at the age of 78.

Her husband **Cornelio**; children **Mary Anne** and **Jaime Batongbacal**, **Arnold** and **Noraine**; grandchildren **Marian Carmel**, **Jan Rayniel**, **Francis Dominic**, **Enrico Noel**, and **Anna Nicole**; brothers and sisters **Pancracio** (†) and **Redencion** (†), **Ruperto** (†) and **Maria**, **Maria** and **Alfredo** (†), **Hermogenes** (†), **Panfilo** and **Socorro**, **Rita** and **Antonio** (†), **Romana**, **Amado** and **Fe** request relatives, friends, acquaintances and the readers to include her in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-B), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 31, 2006 after the Necrological Mass at 2:00 p.m. at Krus ng Wawa Memorial Park, Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

REYNALDO V. ABDON

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 28, 2006 at the age of 56.

His body lies in state at
21 Pearl St. Beredo Subd.
Alangilan, Batangas City.

Interment will be announced later.

More Classifieds on :

Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) & Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Page A14
Ramon Sia (Bicol Medical Center) & Technoads Page A18

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 28, 2006)

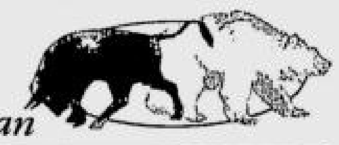
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	35	34.5	35	207,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	53	51.5	53	675,700
China Banking Corp.	695	695	695	695	120
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	1,790,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75	75	75	75	29,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38.5	37.5	38	334,100
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	55	55	55	500
Philippine National Bank	33	33.5	33	33.5	6,500
Phil. Savings Bank	41	41	41	41	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	48	48	48	48	6,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	43.5	44	43.5	44	35,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	10,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	28	30.5	28	30.5	11,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1630	1630	1630	1630	520
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2035	2035	2020	2020	640
Ivantage Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.46	1.48	25,740,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42.5	43	42.5	43	168,600
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41.5	41.5	41	41	709,600
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16	16	16	118,600
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25.5	25	25	80,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9	8.9	8.9	1,446,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	5,323,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.3	4,250,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	4,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	9,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32.5	31.5	32.5	944,900
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	160,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.85	4.05	3.85	4.05	1,994,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64.5	63.5	64.5	84,900
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71.5	70.5	71.5	187,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.75	17.75	311,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.205	3,170,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	210,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,229,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.5	4.95	4.5	4.95	708,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	10,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.65	4	3.65	3.65	7,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.57	0.6	0.55	0.58	90,780,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.11	0.155	0.11	0.155	105,860,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	35,000,000
Ayala Corp.	422.5	432.5	422.5	432.5	174,810
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	400,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	109,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	3,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	630,000
APC Group Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.3	20,630,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.93	0.95	740,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1,534,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.1	3.95	4	1,772,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.8	173,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	238,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.38	0.55	0.38	0.55	4,610,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	17,800,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.59	1,320,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.135	9,500,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	218	217	217	177,390
South China Resources Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	610,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.71	0.9	0.71	0.83	520,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.13	0.135	0.125	0.135	11,640,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	1,380,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	6,252,300
Belle Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	660,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,000,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	544,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	590,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	15,030,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	150,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	6,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.34	4,901,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	220,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	18,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	130,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	23,592,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	57,280,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	370,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.17	0.205	0.17	0.205	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	2,091,600
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	1,350,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	1,253,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.62	0.57	0.59	2,290,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15.75	16	15.75	16	102,400
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	7,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	1,955,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	980	990	980	980	57,630
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.7	3,731,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1915	1940	1915	1930	97,880
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	240,000
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.02	0.018	0.02	17,300,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	1,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	10,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	70,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	7,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3	3	3	3	464,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	43,700
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	120,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.6	2,966,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.3	2,480,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.48	300,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1110	1110	1110	1110	1,000
iPeople Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	115,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.24	2.24	85,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	85,100
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	482,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	389,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	46,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8.3	8	8.2	1,462,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.2	2.32	2.2	2.2	320,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	5,590,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	384,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	163,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	208,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4	4.2	4	4.05	1,361,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.1	2,953,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25	25	24.5	24.5	114,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	150,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	940,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	80,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	199,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,300,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,817,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1,254,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	238,100
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16.75	16.75	16	16	1,000
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES					
SQL*Wizard Inc.	1	1	1	1	6,000

CURRENCIES

August 29, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.784191	1.000000	51.4550
Japan	Yen	0.006686	0.008526	0.4387
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479925	1.887200	97.1059
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100802	0.128543	6.6142
Switzerland	Franc	0.632616	0.806712	41.5094
Canada	Dollar	0.706733	0.901226	46.3726
Singapore	Dollar	0.496323	0.632911	32.5664
Australia	Dollar	0.594399	0.757978	39.0018
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.080192	2.652661	136.4927
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209106	0.266652	13.7206
Brunei	Dollar	0.494758	0.630915	32.4637
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020806	0.026532	1.3652
UAE	Dirham	0.213513	0.272272	14.0098
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.275200	65.6154
Argentina	Peso	0.253784	0.323625	16.6521
Brazil	Real	0.363674	0.463757	23.8626
Denmark	Kroner	0.134070	0.170966	8.7971
India	Rupee	0.016897	0.021547	1.1087
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213182	0.271850	13.9880
Mexico	New Peso	0.071459	0.091124	4.6888
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499357	0.636780	32.7655
Norway	Kroner	0.124386	0.158617	8.1616
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013016	0.016598	0.8541
South Africa	Rand	0.109295	0.139373	7.1714
Korea	Won	0.000816	0.001040	0.0535
Sweden	Kroner	0.108242	0.138030	7.1023
Syria	Pound	0.015107	0.019264	0.9912
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023832	0.030391	1.5638
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000365	0.000466	0.0240

Examples of English humor

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

I AM GRATEFUL TO READERS WHO SEND IN amusing articles because then I don't have to think up a pile of jokes before getting down to business. These notices were all found in London:

Toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

In a Laundromat:

Automatic washing machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

In a store:

Bargain basement upstairs.

In an office:

Would the person who took the step ladder please bring back or further steps will be taken.

In an office:

After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Outside a second hand shop:

We exchange anything—bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Outside a Health store:

Closed to illness.

In a farmer's field:

The farmer allows hikers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges. (My favorite.)

On a leaflet being distributed:

If you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons.

On a repair shop door:

We can repair anything. (Please bang hard on door-the bell doesn't work.)

On a shop:

Ears pierced-while you wait.

* * *

As I wrote only 6 days ago, there is not much to say. The feeble attempt to impeach the President was dispensed with almost undue haste by a vote of 173 to 32, the economic scene remains serene, this year's budget hasn't been approved yet and the dividend season is over. I am thinking of including books I have just enjoyed, as I am a prolific reader, and new restaurants I tried over the weekend, as I am a gourmet.

The editor might agree to this but he will not let me publish my memoirs of my 6-month stay in Bangkok, 25 years ago. This has been translated into 26 languages but unfortunately banned in every country.

Last week, I pointed out that although an unprecedented stream of good news was coming in, the Phisix just kept moving sideways, unable to decide whether to break out or break down. I asked in that article and in my newsletter, what would it take to put the index higher? I could not see any answer so I reverted to my cautions defensive stance.

This was just as well because the index fell sharply last Friday, down 40, to 2,275, well below the 2,300 support level. However, there was an exceptional reason for this, which I must explain in some detail. It all revolves around the P55 drop in TEL, the most heavily weighted stock in the index. Part of this fall was due to the American Deposit Receipts, which were down by about P32 in dollar equivalent. But the main reason was the conversion of 3.84 million preferred stock, series 7, into an equal number of common shares, which were then listed.

Two days before, some bright foreign individuals had an inkling of this and sold sizable amounts of TEL on Wednesday and Thursday, sufficient to make foreign brokers net sellers. On Friday morning, all was revealed by a PSE disclosure, and the net amount of TEL sold reached P180 million. The conversion price was 3,300 yen, equivalent to P1,670, so there is obviously scope to take a big profit.

Whether the bank which converted is the seller or whether other fund managers are preempting than does not really matter. What does matter is that there is a potential seller of more than 3.4 million shares overhanging the market. Unless there is a large block sale, on cross sales sufficient to absorb this huge line, this stock will weigh heavily on the market for weeks or months. And bearing in mind that it is the most heavily weighted stock in the index, it follows that wherever TEL goes, so goes the Phisix. We can only watch and wait.

The other depressing factor is Iran, which has now completed building a heavy water plant and will eventually produce plutonium, the fuel of which nuclear weapons are made. The US wants to press ahead with sanctions but are unlikely to succeed as Russia and China will probably veto it. Both these countries have substantial interests in Iran so the US is rendered impotent.

Iran already has the warheads to deliver a nuclear strike anywhere in the Middle East so if it is allowed to go ahead unmolested, within 5 years or so, either the US or Israel will make a pre-emptive strike and the whole region will explode. For those who believe in the prophecies of Nostradamus, he predicted that a swarthy man in the Middle East would be the cause of World War III.

Last Friday, Bernanke made a speech on the effect of globalization on industrialized countries and argued, as did his predecessor Greenspan, that protectionism was not the answer. He did not mention monetary policy or the housing market. I do not think he will do anything in the near term. It would be more sensible to wait until nearer Christmas, by which time he will have additional data on inflation and the housing market.

Manila Mining has just gone ex a 1 for 2 rights issue at 15 centavos. Stockholders must either take up the rights or sell then in the market. They must do one or the other, especially MAB. If in doubt, consult your stockholder.

News that AC and ALI were investing $75 million abroad did not go down well with stockholders but I see nothing wrong with taking opportunities whenever they occur. If they are confident of a 15 to 20 percent return, why not?

PCOR called on its insurance company to pay for the clean up of its oil spill. Slick move.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

PNCC sees ₱200-M profit in 2007

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION Corp. (PNCC) is expecting a net income of about P200 million in 2007 after suffering massive losses for the past 30 years of its franchise period, according to PNCC spokeperson Maridel Tacardon.

In 2005, PNCC suffered a loss of P2.09 billion based on the audited report by the Commission on Audit.

The projected financial turnaround will come from a corporate restructuring that will focus on debt reduction, resolution of long standing legal cases, right-sizing of the organization, and reduction in corporate expenses.

The company owes PNB P2.4 billion, the interest of which had resulted in the audited net income losses. PNCC is nearing the final stage of negotiations with PNB to finally resolve six years of arrearages. The settlement will result in substantial reduction in debt and interest charges. PNCC has also asked the Supreme Court for an approval of its settlement with Radstock stemming from the RTC decision to award Radstock P13 billion in 2002 plus interest. PNCC has also proposed a long-term restructuring of its P5.6 billion in obligations to the Bureau of the Treasury.

PNCC has also entered into an amicable settlement with its seven labor unions wherein the latter will benefit from an enhanced separation and retirement packages. This was in line with PNCC's program to phase out unprofitable divisions and service lines and stick to the core business of developing tollways.

The company is requesting Congress for a 25-year extension of its franchise to develop more tollroads and arterial linkages from Carmen, Pangasinan, to Lucena, Quezon.

The national government and other government corporations own 90 percent of PNCC.

Summit set . . .

From page B1

it takes an average of 48 days to register a business and 197 days to secure all the needed government permits.

The leaders also agreed that streamlining, decentralization and automation of government frontline services were key in addressing the problem of red tape.

Shares close higher

From page B1

They said thin volumes, however, suggested investors were generally reluctant to commit fresh funds to the market on concerns any upturn will be short-lived.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 24.05 points at 2,298.58 after trading between 2,272.86 and 2,303.39. Volume was 1.57 billion shares worth P978.8 million. The broader all-shares index rose 11.52 points to 1,426.76.

Gainers led losers 54 to 34, with 54 stocks unchanged.

"There (was) renewed interest in select blue chips like PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.)," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com. *AFP*

Time to step up
The new BMW X5. Confident Arrival.
M·FE 4087

The BMW One-Year Deferred Payment Plan.

- The One-Year Deferred Payment Plan starts with a 50% downpayment.
- The first monthly payment follows only after one year or on the 13th month.
- Monthly payments can be extended up to 2 years.

This innovative ownership solution is available on all brand new BMW models.

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel.(02) 6380734 • Fax (02) 4380419

Promo period is from August 2-31, 2006. See posters for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2608, Series of 2006.

WILLY TAN SY

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 26, 2006 at the age of 57.

He is survived by his wife Anita; children Cheryl Cristine, Michael Allen, and Sheryl; grandchildren Kyle Luigi and Lance McKenzie; sisters Juanita, Betty, Rosa, and Shirley; and brothers Benito, Francisco, Henry, Eligio, Roberto, Edward, Juanito, Danilo, and Antonio; as well as nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz,
143 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on
Wednesday, August 30, 2006,
9:00 a.m. at Chinese Cemetery, Caloocan City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

FELIPE S. BINCE, SR.

August 31, 1916 - August 27, 2006

Has joined his loving and Merciful God

His wife **Mama Ticang**; children **Fe** and **Bert Magat, Chuchi** and **Sonny** (†) **Segovia, Puritchie** and **Jimmy Marquez, Boy** and **Beth, Pipes** and **Jean, Benjie**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives request your prayers that God reward him in paradise for all the love he had given during his life here on earth.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Parish Memorial Chapel, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 30, 2006. Final Memorial Services at the Sta. Rita Parish Church will be at 2:00 p.m. on the same day.

Kindly omit flowers.

Lovingly remembered on his
1st anniversary to eternal life

Atty. Arturo M. Del Rosario

Founder, Del Rosario & Del Rosario Law Offices

Born to Life on August 9, 1922
Born to Eternal Life on August 29, 2005

Holy Masses shall be offered at various churches.

His loving wife Susan, children: Ruben and Cora, Roselle and Joe, Johnny and Boots, Robert and Malin, Benny and Fely, and Evita and Graeme and their families, would like to thank all their relatives, associates and friends for always remembering Arthur (Turing) in their prayers.

He gave us so much to be thankful for.

JUDGE ANTHONY E. SANTOS (Ret.)

(Former Presiding Judge of Regional Trial Court,
Cagayan de Oro City, Branch 19)
(U.P. Law Class of 1957)

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 26, 2006
at the age of 74.

His loving wife **Mira**, children and in-laws **Nonen & Wewel, Yoyoy & Bong, Gigi & Yannick, Agnes & Joey, Andrew & May, Memet & Danny**, grandchildren, great grandchild, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Cagayan de Oro City.

Interment will be on August 31, 2006 after the 8 A.M. Holy Mass at the Divine Shepherd Memorial Garden, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City.

The Order of Friars Minor
of San Pedro Bautista Province in the Philippines

deeply mourns the passing away of

BRO. LEWIS LAO FUENTES, OFM

who died on August 24, 2006 at the age of 61.

His remains lie in state at San Vicente Ferrer Parish, Cebu City and will be transferred to Manila on August 31, 2006 at San Pedro Bautista Parish. Daily celebration of the eucharist will be offered at 8:00 o'clock in the evening.

Interment will be on September 2, 2006 (Saturday) after the Funeral Mass at 2:30 p.m. at San Pedro Bautista Parish, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

"Praised be my Lord, through our sister bodily death."
St. Francis of Assisi

Col. Socrates J. Monzon, Sr., PA (Ret.)

(widower of Zorahayda Herrera)

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 26, 2006 at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife **Gloria Franco**; children and in-laws **Dr. Socrates, Jr.** (†), **Dr. Irma, Leon (Nilo)** (†) and **Nora Josef, Cecilia** and **Virgilio (Leo) Amposta, Zorayda (Aydee)** and **Dr. Francisco Buendia, Edwin** and **Agnes (Lulu) Fausto**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz - Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be held on Thursday, August 31, 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEMS

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

The Dominican Province of the Philippines,
Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas,
University of Santo Tomas
and the bereaved family

announce
with deep sorrow
the demise of

REV. FR. REGINO O. CORTES, O.P.

(1942 - 2006)
who peacefully joined our Creator on
Monday, August 28, 2006.

Dean, UST Institute of Religion (1974-1978) • Rector, Letran College in Intramuros, Manila (1980-1986) • Rector, Letran College in Calamba, Laguna (1980-1986) • Parish Priest, Santo Domingo Parish, Quezon City • Prior, Santo Domingo Convent (1998-2001) • Member, Pontifical Biblical Commission (2001-2006) • Regent, UST College of Fine Arts and Design (2002-2006)

His remains lie in state at the UST Chapel.

After the Funeral Mass on Wednesday,
August 30 at 2:00 p.m. at the UST Chapel,
Interment will immediately follow at the
Sanctuario del Santo Cristo, San Juan, Metro Manila.

God now has you in His keeping,
We always have you in our hearts.

GIL 'JUN' G. PUYAT, JR.

Born on 2 May 1936

Husband of Milagros P. Tambunting,
eldest son of the late Senate President Gil J. Puyat,
Chairman of the Board of the Loyola Group of Companies,
Delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention of the Philippines
representing District II, Quezon
Chairman, Committee on Economic Planning & Implementation

THE LOYOLA GROUP OF COMPANIES

Group Developers, Inc.
Munting Buhangin Beach Camp, Inc.
Batulao Golf & Mountain Resort, Inc.
Loyola Memorial Park Chapels & Crematory Services, Inc.
Worldwide Cemetery Management Inrernational, Inc.
Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Inc.
Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc.
Philippine Mortuary Institute, Inc.
Loyola Group Sales & Marketing, Inc.
Loyola-Dell Properties, Inc.
Loyola-Dell Gardens Tanauan, Inc
Hearse Rental Corporation

are in grief with the demise of their
Chairman of the Board,
Mr. Gil 'Jun' G. Puyat, Jr. on 28 August 2006
at the age of 70.

His cremains lie in state at
Sanctuario de San Jose,
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Friday,
1 September 2006 at La Pieta,
Loyola Memorial Park,
Marikina City, following a 10:00 AM Mass.

Virgin coco oil exports seen rising by 300%

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S VIRGIN COCONUT oil (VCO) exports are expected to grow by about 300 percent to 2.4 million metric tons this year, from 500MT last year, as demand for this product overseas—particularly in the United States-increases steadily, government and industry officials said.

The projected VCO exports volume this year translates to earnings of about $960 million given the product's prevailing world market prices of $375 to $450 per MT, the Philippine Coconut Authority said.

PCA Deputy Administrator Arturo J. Liquete said that demand for VCO was seen to grow five-fold this year as consumers shift to healthier food and food supplements.

Philippine Virgin Coconut Producers Association Inc. president Tess Santos said the country had been exporting VCO to the United States, South Korea, Singapore and Australia.

The US, however, remained the country's biggest VCO market, absorbing about 93 percent of total shipments last year.

Santos said the industry was also trying to tap the European Union and Japan as new markets.

The growing popularity of VCO in overseas markets has prompted the PCA to step up efforts to promote the production of this oil.

The PCA, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, said there were now about 23 VCO manufacturers in the country, each one following its own product quality standards, said the PCA.

To ensure that Philippine VCO is of high quality and that this quality will be maintained, the PCA has adopted a set of minimum quality standards for VCO production.

It is also considering coming out with a separate set of standards for flavored VCO.

IN THE KNOW

VIRGIN COCONUT OIL IS MADE FROM fresh coconut meat, unlike other coconut oils that are made from copra (the dried kernel of coconut).

The oil extracted from copra has to undergo refining, bleaching and deodorizing processes to remove impurities and make it suitable for consumption.

VCO does not undergo these processes. There are two main methods to produce it—quick drying and wet milling methods. Under the first, minimal heat is used to dry the coconut meat, after which, the oil is pressed out. The second involves the immediate extraction of oil and its separation from water through boiling, or fermentation for a day or two.

Because the methods used to make VCO are mechanical and natural, it retains the fresh scent and taste of coconuts. In contrast, RBD (refined, bleached and deodorized) oil is bland and odor-free.

The Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, Philippine Coconut Authority, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards and the Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines have come up with quality standards for VCO, which state that the product should have no sour taste or smell, no soapy or metallic taste, no artificial taste and no change in color. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

LGUs property tax collection too low, study shows

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOR EVERY P1 OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES (RPT) that local government units were supposed to collect to boost their revenues, 42 centavos have remained unpaid over the 12 years, a recent National Tax Research Center study showed.

The NTRC study estimated that from 1993 to 2004, the RPT gap—or the total amount of uncollected taxes over the years—had hit P58.59 billion. Of this, P9.9 billion was incurred in 2004.

The study, prepared by tax specialist Ma. Rhea Caro and was recently reported to the Department of Finance, concluded that the huge RPTs were making the LGUs more dependent on internal revenue allotment from the national government.

"In general, the collection of the basic RPT is well below its potential and is not contributing as much as it should for the LGUs' developmental objectives" the study said.

On the average, the LGUs have registered a collection efficiency of 58 percent from 1993 to 2004. This means about 42 percent of the supposed real property tax revenue remained uncollected.

Among the factors that contributed to the low real property tax collections were: Poverty of taxpayers, political influence particularly in areas of real property valuation and assessment, financial dislocation due to calamities and other disasters, lack of tax consciousness, inadequate RPT record system, limited use of civil remedies such as sale of delinquent properties at public auction and undervaluation of property values.

On a yearly basis, the study said the LGUs' RPT collection efficiency had been fluctuating. The efficiency ratio leapt from 57 percent in 1993 to a high of 70 percent in 1994, reflecting the improved capacity of taxpayers given the country's strong economic performance at that time. But after the Asian currency crisis, the collection efficiency shrunk to 50 percent in 2002 before slightly recovering to 57 percent and 58 percent in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

The RPT, a local government imposition under the Local Government Code of 1991, is an annual ad valorem on real property such as land, building, machinery and other improvements at a rate not exceeding 1 percent of the assessed value in the case of provincial assets and not exceeding 2 percent in cities and municipalities in Metro Manila.

An additional 1 percent tax is also imposed on the assessed value which accrues to the Special Education Fund.

The basic RPT is a major component of LGUs's revenues, posting an annual average share of 6.17 percent during the 12-year period in review. Despite the increasing trend of RPT collections, the study said LGUs still relied heavily on revenues generated from external sources—such as IRA, share from the utilization of the national wealth, grants, aid and borrowings—for 66 percent of their revenues.

Cities within Metro Manila realized a higher RPT collection efficiency of 63 percent for the 1993-2004 review period versus the 46 percent ratio of their peers outside the metropolis and the 58 percent average of provincial governments.

But cities within Metro Manila recorded the highest RPT gap of P24.53 billion, notwithstanding the fact that a number of cities within the metropolis had been conducting auction sales of delinquent properties since 2002 in order to trim the gap.

BDO to offer ₱5B in certificates of time deposits

BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL BANK WILL OFfer up to P5 billion worth of Long Term Negotiable Certificates of Time Deposits (LTNCDs) within one year starting next month.

The LTNCD will have a maximum maturity of five years and one month and a fixed rate based on the five-year MART1 benchmark rate on the interest setting date, plus a premium or discount to be determined later. Interest setting date is the date prior to the offer period, to be agreed upon by the issuer and arranger.

The bank has appointed Standard Chartered Bank as arranger for the issue. The LTNCD will be offered through the following selling agents: BDO Capital and Investment Corp., BDO Private Bank Inc., BDO Securities Corp., Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Phils. Inc. and Standard Chartered Bank.

The issuance of the LTNCDs, which was approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas recently, is aimed at diversifying the maturity profile of BDO's sources of funding and raise funds for capital expenditures.

BDO issued its first P5-billion LTNCD program in 2 tranches in 2005.

RP seeks retention of US GSP concessions

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS ASKING the United States to keep the duty-free trade concessions that certain Philippine exports are enjoying under the US Generalized System of Preferences, according to Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila.

The US GSP provides special access to the American market, which Washington extended unilaterally to some developing countries in an effort to help them grow through trade.

Favila said the Philippines was the 7th largest beneficiary of the US GSP among the countries that were eligible for the scheme.

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry show that the country shipped to the US through the GSP $966 million worth of goods in 2004 and $319 million in the first quarter of 2005.

Favila said he also led a team that pushed for a possible trade arrangement that could eventually result in full free-trade conditions but only for industries that were more prepared for the elimination of tariffs ahead of the others.

He said these issues were covered in a meeting with his US counterpart—Trade Representative Susan Schwab—held on the sidelines of the 38th Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Economic Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur last week.

Officials said Washington was looking at the possibility of ending the US GSP program because it has been resulting in huge tariff revenue losses.

But Favila said he had asked Schwab not to do so "if the US really considers the Philippines its ally of long-standing."

Continued preferential access to the US market benefits various industries including Camelbak personal rehydration containers manufacturing; agriculture; food processing and aquaculture.

"I asked Ambassador Schwab to consider some form of phased FTA (free trade agreement)," Favila said.

He explained that the first phase could mean the removal of tariffs in sectors that were ready to do so, like the garments industry.

Subsequent stages might involve the time-bound negotiation of FTA concessions for other sectors.

However, Favila said the Americans suggested that both parties should first explore other options.

USTH posts ₱37M in profit

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HOSPITAL said it posted its highest income since 1999 in fiscal year 2006, marking the second straight year of positive financial performance.

USTH president and CEO Cenon Alfonso said the hospital's net income in the period July 2005 to June 2006 reached P37 million. In fiscal year 2005, USTH posted a turnaround from a net loss of P57.4 million in 2004 to P35.9 million last fiscal year.

The hospital started registering profits after it was restructured, Alfonso said.

"We have made remarkable gains since the Dominican Fathers elected to address the hospital's financial losses with a far-ranging restructuring plan. But there is still much to do. Our goal is to regain the preeminent stature of USTH," he added.

The hospital had been incurring intermittent losses since 2000, from a net income of P7.1 million in 1999. USTH managed to register a minimal profit in 2002, but posted losses again in the succeeding two years.

By the end of fiscal year 2004, the hospital was severely in the red, with past due obligations running into millions of pesos.

This prompted the Dominican Fathers, through the UST Board of Trustees, to authorize USTH's spin-off as an autonomous, nonstock, nonprofit corporation in 2005. Following a comprehensive audit and streamlining of operations, USTH's new board and management succeeded in turning the situation around within five months.

In fiscal year 2006, USTH's gross operating profit hit P1.3 billion. Actual net profit from operations reached P151.4 million, of which P114 million was used to subsidize the hospital's charity division. USTH allocates about 80 percent of its profits for the operation of its charity division.

USTH, according to Alfonso, is reasserting itself as the country's premier university hospital provider of the highest quality of health services and the best in medical education, training and research.

Pag-Ibig net income hits ₱4.5B

By Cynthia D. Balana

PAG-IBIG FUND, A GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL institution and the biggest source of housing loans in the country, posted P4.54 billion in net income in the first half of the year.

This was 22 percent higher than year-ago's P3.73 billion.

Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and chair of the Pag-Ibig board, announced this yesterday as he cited the agency's executives for sustaining a solid performance in stimulating the economy through increased savings and extension of housing loans.

De Castro said the robust growth was driven by the increases in interest income arising from Pag-Ibig's retail housing and multipurpose loan (MPL) programs.

Total revenue climbed to nearly P8 billion, more than half of which came from housing-related assets at P4.15 billion. Earnings from investments contributed P2.2 billion while chose from short-term loans reached P1.61 billion.

Pag-Ibig's assets rose 4.63 percent to P186.56 billion.

Lawyer Romero Quimbo, president and CEO of the agency, said: "We owe these solid results to our 6.3 million members across the country. Managing our members' money in the most efficient manner is an imperative."

Quimbo said the continued strong financial performance of Pag-Ibig Fund would mean more benefits for its members.

Nearly P20 billion in benefits was released by the agency from January to June this year. Recently, Pag-Ibig Fund, on De Castro's order, released the provident claims of OFW members who were recently repatriated from Lebanon.

BDO UNIBANK BANCO DE ORO

Sa P43* a day nadalaw ko ang kapatid ko sa Singapore. Ang galing!

Ang gaan sa bulsa!

SUPERlite Personal Loan

Use it for almost anything!

- Low 0.98% interest rate
- Affordable monthly payments
- FREE Family Accident Insurance up to P300,000 from Generali Pilipinas

Apply Now! Call 631-8000

Visit any BDO or BDO On-Site branches today.

** P25,000 @ 24 months. Terms and conditions apply.*

SUPER LOANS, SUPER PRIZES!

Promo starts from July 17 to October 17, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2306 Series of 2006

We find ways

www.bancodeoro.com.ph

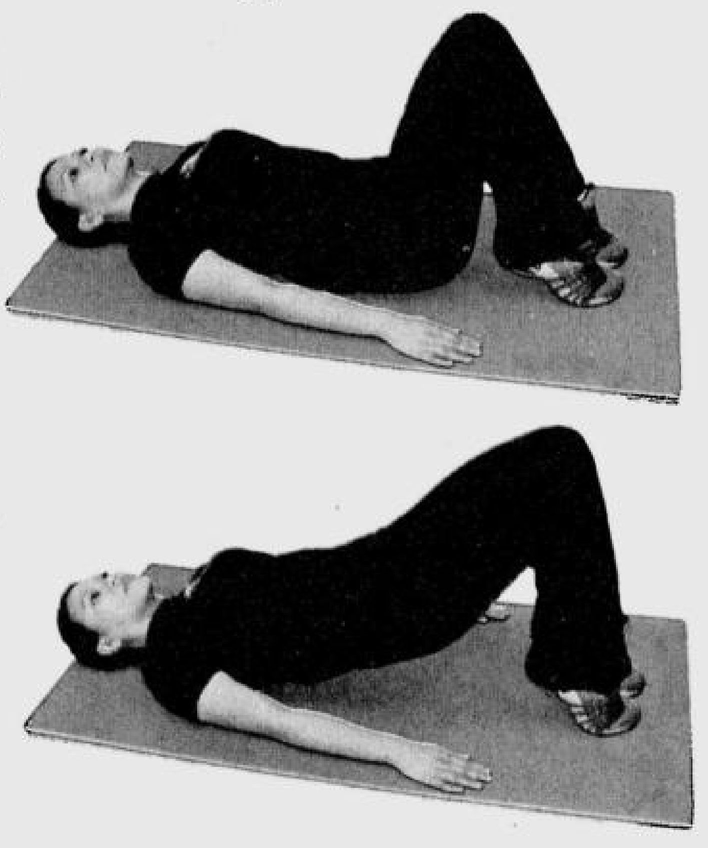
IN THIS ISSUE
RED-LETTER day /C4

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ● TUESDAY FITNESS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Bridge on toes



THIS EXERCISE strengthens buttocks, hamstrings, inner thighs and calves. It also challenges the stability of the core muscles.

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down with your knees bent, feet together, heels raised and arms beside your hips with the palms down.
2. Press down with the balls of your feet and contract your buttocks and inner thighs as you raise your pelvis off the mat.
3. Still keeping your heels raised, lower the pelvis down.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. Keep upper back and shoulders on the floor. Raise only the pelvis and lower back.
2. Keep your spine neutral. Avoid arching the lower back.
3. Exhale as you raise the hips; inhale as you lower down.

Repetitions:

Do 10 repetitions.

Easy-to-swallow diet tips

Part two

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

SMALL CHANGES IN YOUR eating habits can result in big weight losses.

I know people who lost 20-40 pounds by combining easy-to-do diet tips with regular exercise. True, it took them one to two years to reach their goal but they were able to maintain their weight loss because the changes they made were realistic and doable.

That is far better than losing a lot of weight in a short time by going on a strict diet only to gain back all the pounds a year later.

Sit down

Taking spoonfuls of a dessert or cutting off a square of a chocolate bar every time you pass the refrigerator is deceiving. People who claim they only eat a spoonful of ice cream may actually be consuming two scoops a day.

If you really want that piece of cake, put it on a plate, sit down, eat it slowly and savor each bite without any distractions to spoil your pleasure.

Don't mix

Mindlessly eating a bag of potato chips while watching television loads your body with a lot of excess calories without really feeling satisfied. Weight experts found that people who ate while doing other activities didn't feel as satisfied with their food as people who concentrated on the taste, smell and texture of their food.

Go vegetarian

By eating two meatless meals a week, you can save 550 calories, according to the Preventive Medicine Research Institute. Combining beans, grains and vegetables will give you as much protein as meat with a lower caloric content. Another way to be a part-time vegetarian is to put less meat and more vegetables into casseroles and other mixed dishes.

Have the same portion

Nutrition research scientist Barbara Rolls says when you replace a high-fat item with a fat-free piece, eat the same portion—not a bigger one. The same goes for low-carbohydrate products. Many people have the mistaken notion that fat-free or carb-free means calorie-free so they eat double or triple what they should.

Substitute

Substituting something as minor as mustard (15 calories) for mayonnaise (100 calories) can help you cut 85 calories. Switching from whole milk (150 calories) to non-fat (80 calories) removes another 70 calories. While it doesn't seem like much, a reduction of just 100 calories a day can mean a weight loss of about 10 pounds in a year.

Gradually limit

No need to deprive yourself completely of high-calorie "addictions." Instead of five soft drinks a day, cut it down to three. After a while, you will find that you can cut down even more without suffering withdrawal symptoms.

It may take you a year to get from a five-a-day habit to having a soda only twice a week but you will learn that you can have a healthy relationship with tasty but unhealthy treats.

Use smaller plates

Human beings are visual eaters. We seem to be hard-wired to eat more when we see large portions. Studies have proven that people lose track of what a normal size portion is when they use large plates. The opposite is true. Eating from a smaller plate makes you feel full with less food.

Eating from a smaller plate makes you feel full with less food

Out of sight works

"Out of sight, out of mouth" is a favorite saying of dieticians because it really works. If you don't have your favorite temptation at home, you can't eat it when you get a craving late at night. A study showed that office workers who kept candy and cookies in a closed cabinet were less likely to eat them compared to when the snacks were kept in a bowl on their desktop.

Eat only 3/4

A painless way to cut calories is to eat only three-fourths of the starch (rice, pasta, potatoes or bread) that you normally eat. Removing just ¼ of your rice will save you (for every cup of rice) 55 calories, the equivalent of one cookie.

Note: Fitness Network Philippines (formerly AFPP) will hold its National Fitness Convention, "Global Fitness Concepts," Sept. 22-24. Seven international presenters will share the latest in group exercise, personal training and fitness management. Call 9202762 or 0917-5181202. E-mail convention@fitnessphilippines.org or visit www.fitnessphilippines.org

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

Rejuvenate your skin

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THE LARGEST ORGAN IN THE human body probably receives more punishment than any other part. Its job is to insulate and protect, as well as give the body its appealing package.

Can you imagine yourself without your skin? We would die without it. So let's learn how we can improve, even rejuvenate, it.

Here are some helpful ideas from the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS):

Basic truths

Eos. Oxygen to regenerate and rejuvenate skin has been around for over a century. The application of oxygen to the skin reverses aging almost instantly. A clinic called Eos (after the Greek goddess of air) in Laguna designed the EO2S rejuvenation oxygen therapy.

Some 300 million years ago the atmosphere was 21-percent oxygen. Today, oxygen content of the air is 18 percent.

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Studies have shown that less oxygen makes cells sick. In skincare, oxygen therapy has anti-aging benefits.

Engineer Enrique Paradina, a gas specialist, developed a new system that could deliver 21-percent oxygen to the face and neck. The 45-minute procedure includes cleansing, massage and gentle air flow treatments.

Results are visible after the first treatment, with the face looking rested and younger. Call 5206701 or, in Biñan Laguna, (049)4112219.

Fact: Genetics determines 80 percent of skin quality. In short, thank your parents/grandparents if you have good skin. But blame yourself if it degenerates due to neglect and abuse because 20 percent of skin quality is influenced by diet, nutrition, exercise and stress.

Dr. Francisca C. Roa of PDS said in a Mirror Magazine interview that as we aged, it became more difficult to maintain a glowing skin due to stress, mental/emotional and environmental.

The good news is it's never too late to start looking better.

Best skin nourisher

Do you know that seven percent of the oxygen you take in is used and absorbed by the skin? So, breathe deeply and slowly. Breathing in will supply skin cells with oxygen. Breathing out removes carbon dioxide and toxic waste from the body.

Breathe right

As babies, we knew how to breathe—from the belly. It was deep, slow and long. As adults, we breathe shallowly without expelling fully.

- Sit upright in a chair, feet and legs uncrossed, shoulders relaxed.
- Close your eyes.
- Breathe in six counts, hold two counts. Repeat.
- Think light, happy thoughts.

Best skin detox

Exercise is best for cleansing and toning the skin. It lets oxygen feed every cell of your body. You get more nutrients to feed your skin and promote collagen production.

Try walking, running, jogging, cycling, dancing, swimming, playing badminton, bouncing on a trampoline, skipping rope, etc.—anything to get your system going. An added benefit: exercise is great for de-stressing.

Best skin nutrition

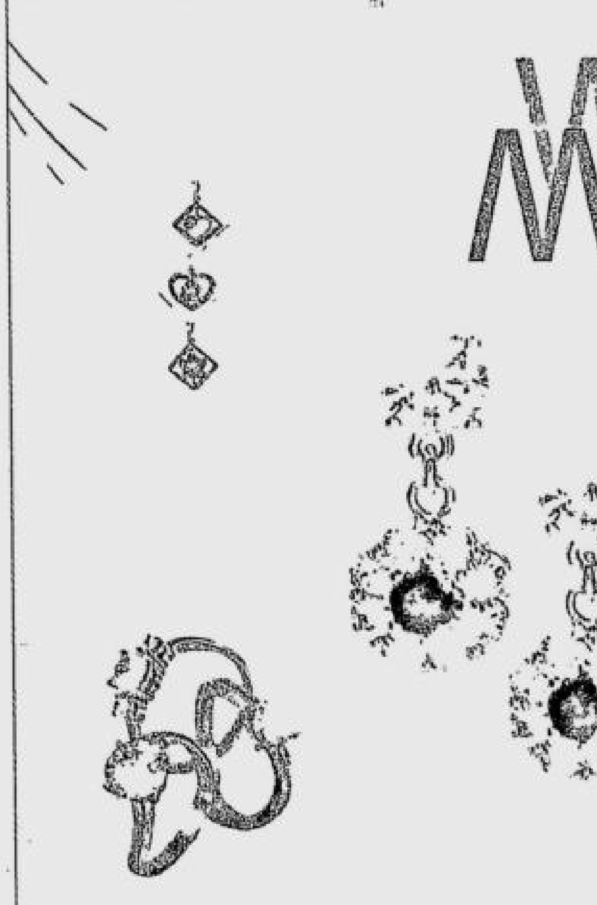
If you want a glowing complexion, eat right. Dermatologists and nutritionists agree that the best skin foods are fresh vegetables and fruits, rich sources of vitamin C and beta-carotene (vitamin A in its natural form). Make it a habit to drink juice every day, more practical when you're on the go all the time.

Your skin is dependent upon the liver, which rids the body of toxic substances in alcohol, prescription drugs, viruses, bacteria. Kidneys filter/cleanse the body and eliminate waste while intestines process the

REJUVENATE/ C3

The good news is it's never too late to start looking better and exercise is best for cleansing and toning the skin

How to prevent BLEEDING GUMS?
Use LACALUT to tighten and strengthen your gums, and protect them against bleeding.
LACALUT Germany's No.1 Medicated Toothpaste
Ask for it at Supermarkets and Drugstores



WOMEN on MOISSANITE

"Brilliant! Just like the women who wear them."
– Isabel J., balikbayan

A gem so diamond-like, it's almost impossible to tell the difference.

2F Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati City Tels. 893-0521, 893-2578 • 3F SM Megamall Bldg. A, Mandaluyong City Tel. 637-0490 • Lower Ground Floor, Main Bldg., SM City North Edsa, Quezon City Tels. 926-1961 to 62 • 2F SM City, Davao City Tel. (082) 297-2069
www.moissaniteph.com

MOISSANITE
CHARLES & COLVARD MOISSANITE

NASAL CONGESTION MAY REDUCE HEARING

Decongest. Decolgen.

Phenylpropanolamine HCl
Paracetamol

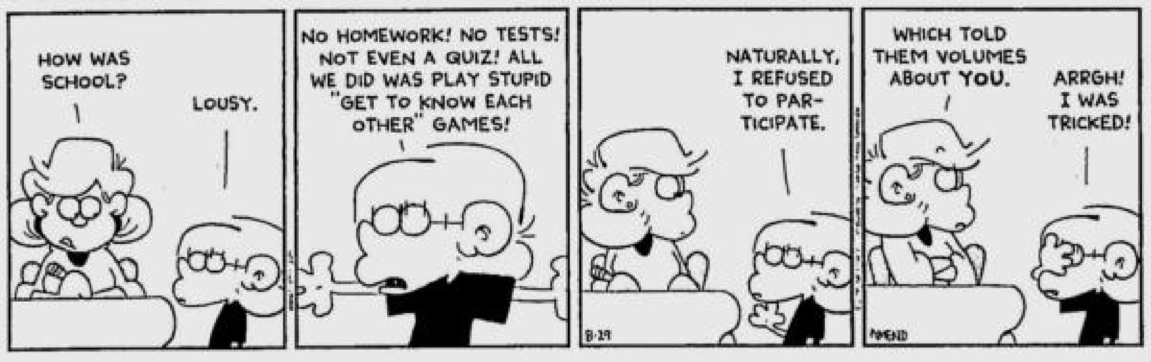
Nasal congestion may lessen your sense of hearing, thus preventing your enjoyment of things. Solution? The Maximum Decongesting Action of doctor-trusted Decolgen.

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

UNILAB Quality Healthcare

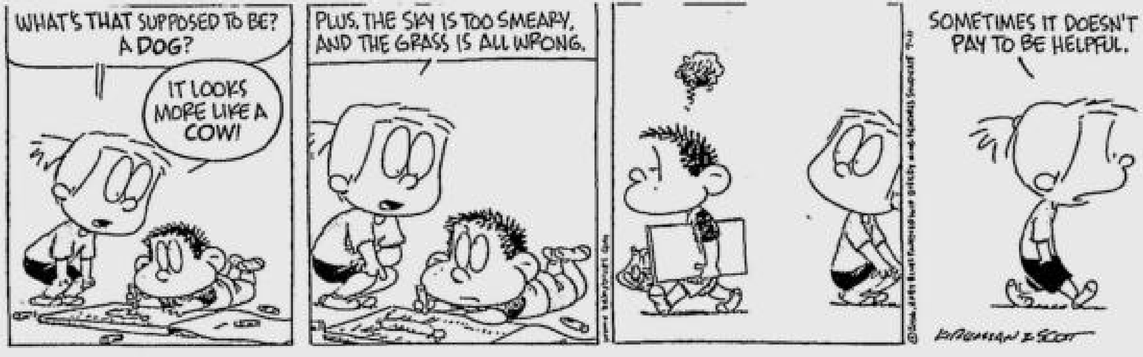
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW WAS SCHOOL?
LOUSY.
NO HOMEWORK! NO TESTS! NOT EVEN A QUIZ! ALL WE DID WAS PLAY STUPID "GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER" GAMES!
NATURALLY, I REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE.
WHICH TOLD THEM VOLUMES ABOUT YOU.
ARRGH! I WAS TRICKED!
8-29
AMEND

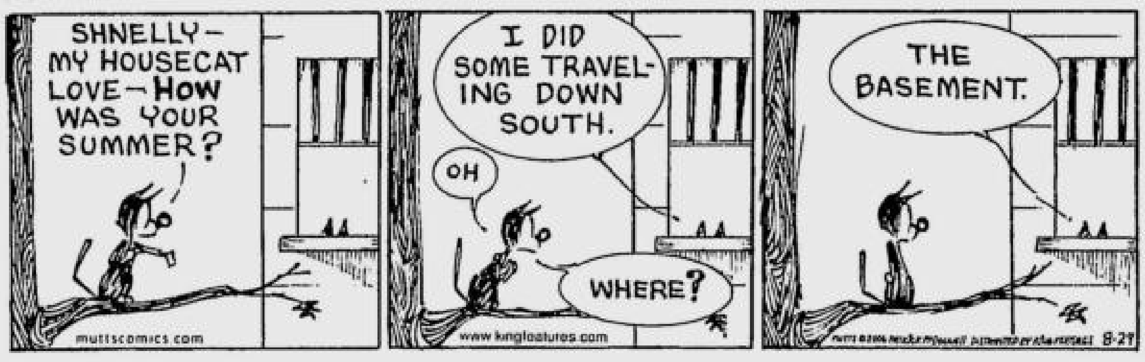
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE? A DOG?
IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A COW!
PLUS, THE SKY IS TOO SMEARY, AND THE GRASS IS ALL WRONG.
SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T PAY TO BE HELPFUL.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

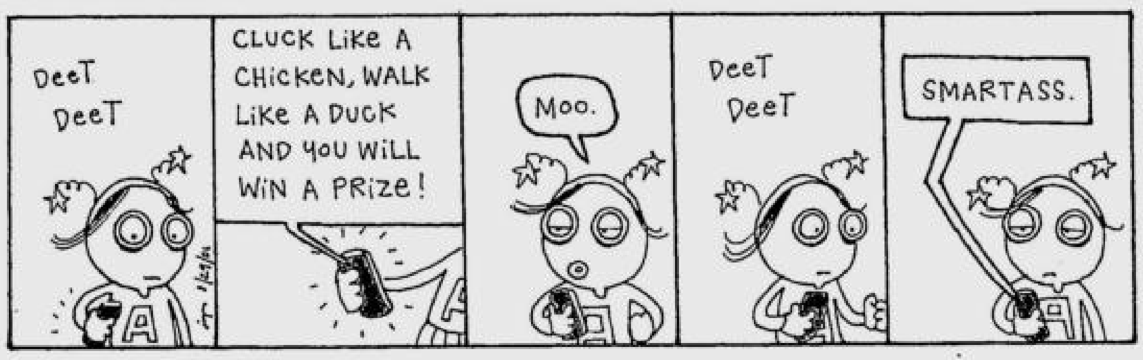
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHNELLY— MY HOUSECAT LOVE—HOW WAS YOUR SUMMER?
I DID SOME TRAVELING DOWN SOUTH.
OH
WHERE?
THE BASEMENT.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
8-29

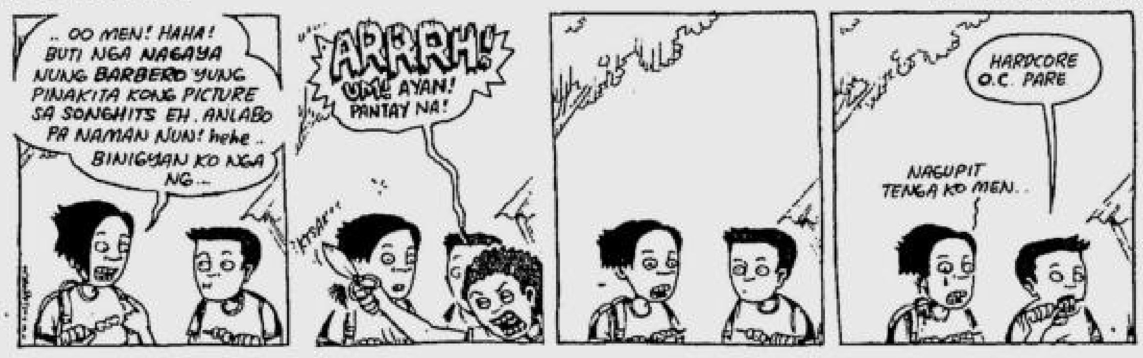
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DeeT DeeT
CLUCK LiKe A CHiCKeN, WALK LiKe A DUcK AND YoU WiLL WiN A PRiZe!
Moo.
DeeT DeeT
SMARTASS.

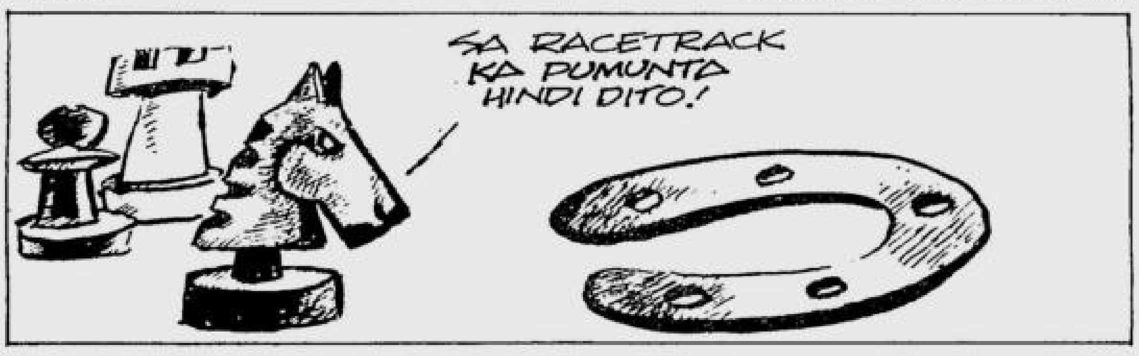
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


..OO MEN! HAHA! BUTI NGA NAGAYA NUNG BARBERO 'YUNG PINAKITA KONG PICTURE SA SONGHITS EH. ANLABO PA NAMAN NUN! hehe.. BINIGYAN KO NGA NG..
ARRRH!
UME AYAN! PANTAY NA!
NAGUPIT TENGA KO MEN..
HARDCORE O.C. PARE

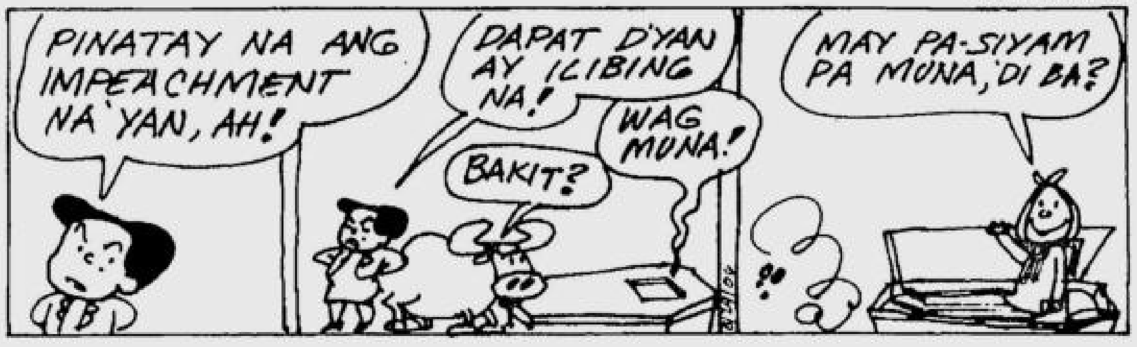
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SA RACETRACK KA PUMUNTA HINDI DITO.!

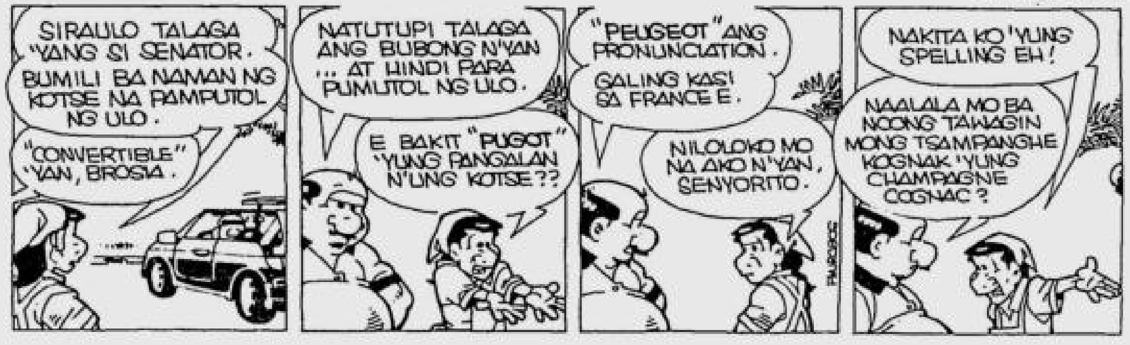
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PINATAY NA ANG IMPEACHMENT NA 'YAN, AH!
DAPAT D'YAN AY ILIBING NA!
BAKIT?
WAG MUNA!
MAY PA-SIYAM PA MUNA, 'DI BA?

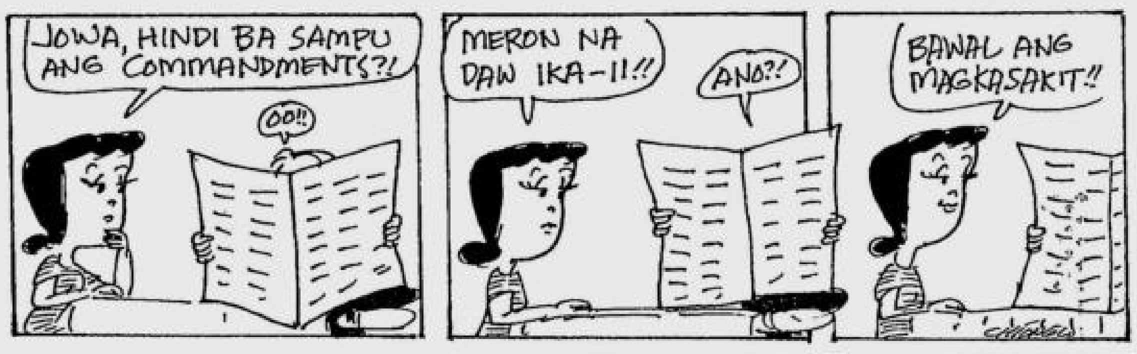
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SIRAULO TALAGA 'YANG SI SENATOR. BUMILI BA NAMAN NG KOTSE NA PAMPUTOL NG ULO.
"CONVERTIBLE" 'YAN, BROSIA.
NATUTUPI TALAGA ANG BUBONG N'YAN ... AT HINDI PARA PUMUTOL NG ULO.
E BAKIT "PUGOT" 'YUNG PANGALAN N'UNG KOTSE??
"PEUGEOT" ANG PRONUNCIATION.
GALING KASI SA FRANCE E.
NILOLOKO MO NA AKO N'YAN, SENYORITO.
NAKITA KO 'YUNG SPELLING EH!
NAALALA MO BA NOONG TAWAGIN MONG TSAMPANGHE KOGNAK 'YUNG CHAMPAGNE COGNAC?

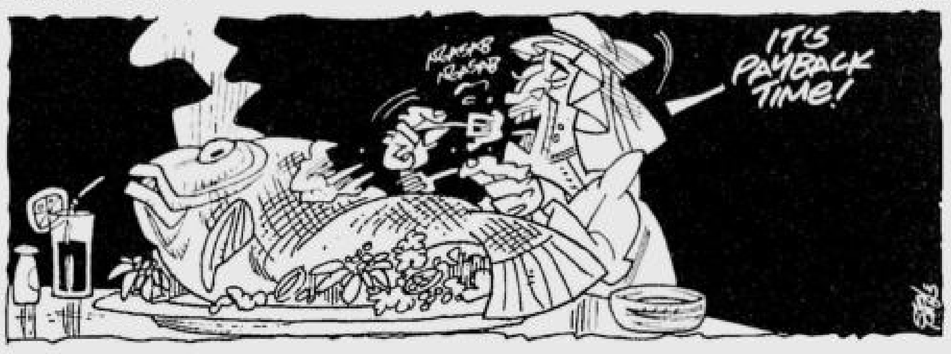
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, HINDI BA SAMPU ANG COMMANDMENTS?!
OO!!
MERON NA DAW IKA-11!!
ANO?!
BAWAL ANG MAGKASAKIT!!

DIVINE COMEDY

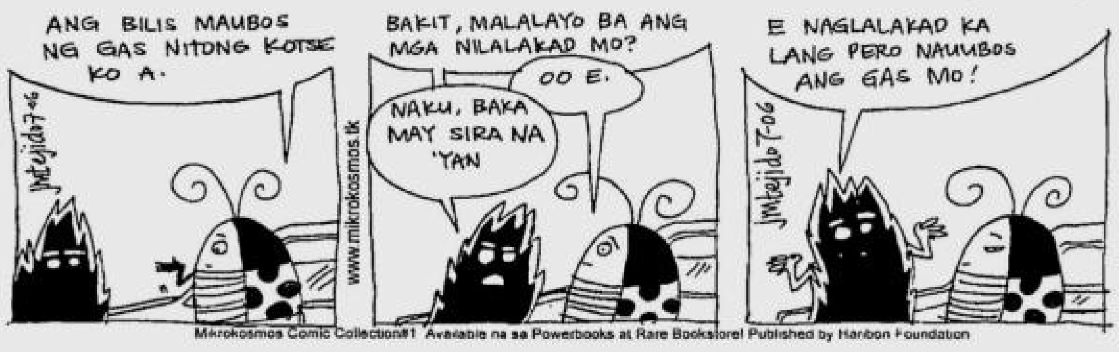
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


IT'S PAYBACK TIME!

JONAH EATING A BIG FISH

MIKROKOSMOS

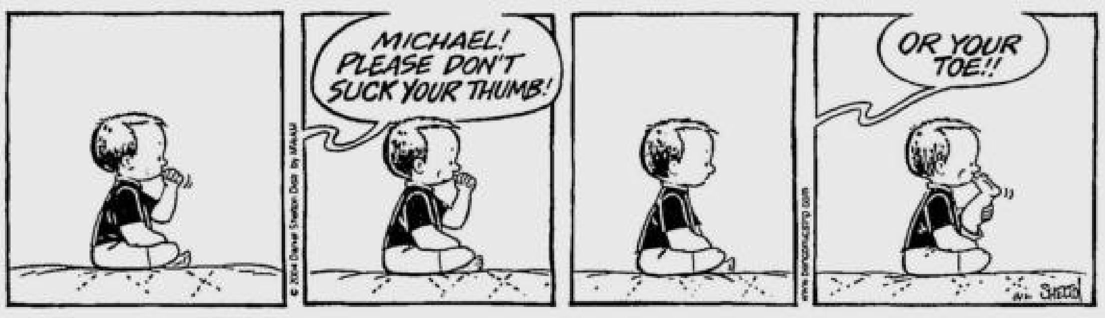
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG BILIS MAUBOS NG GAS NITONG KOTSE KO A.
BAKIT, MALALAYO BA ANG MGA NILALAKAD MO?
OO E.
NAKU, BAKA MAY SIRA NA 'YAN
E NAGLALAKAD KA LANG PERO NAUUBOS ANG GAS MO!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Haribon Foundation

BEN

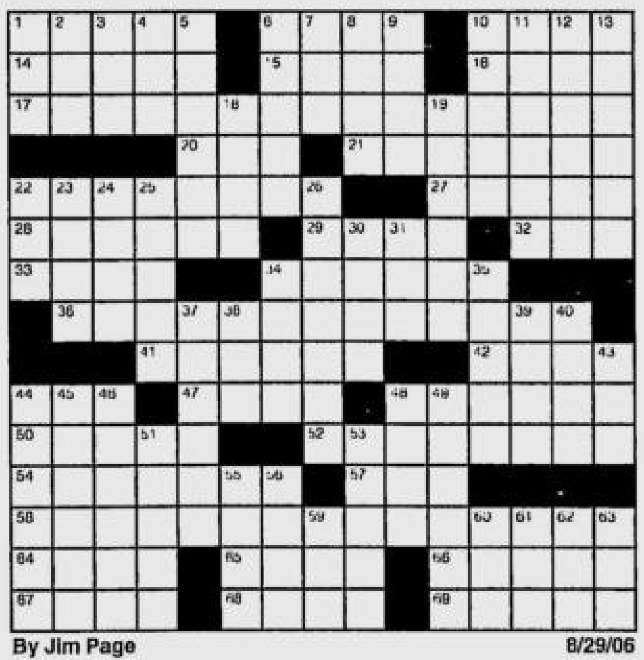
BY DANIEL SHELTON


MICHAEL! PLEASE DON'T SUCK YOUR THUMB!
OR YOUR TOE!!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Leading
6 Earring site
10 Yorkshire guy
14 Hold contents
15 Sitting on
16 Waikiki's island
17 Surrender
20 Pouch
21 Listens to again
22 "Hawaii" writer
27 Twin Cities suburb
28 Anticipates with terror
29 Deuterium discoverer
32 Last of cash?
33 Mountain lake
34 Vile smiles
36 I surrender!
41 Kin by marriage
42 "Hud" co-star
44 Exist
47 Fraternity frock
48 Areca nuts
50 __ nova
52 Complained peevishly
54 Features
57 Lofting tennis shot
58 Surrender
64 Emerald Isle
65 Abel's sibling
66 Half of the U.A.R.
67 Prom partner
68 Exaggerated publicity
69 Rundown

DOWN
1 Take steps
2 Expression of derision
3 Be off
4 In the past
5 Used a divining rod
6 Biker Armstrong
7 Great Giant
8 Physicist Niels
9 Fencing foil
10 Talked to pigeons
11 Hilo's island
12 "A Night to Remember" star
13 Rotating neutron star
18 Holm and Hunter
19 "__ Coming to Take Me Away, Ha, Haaa!"
22 Denver summer hrs.
23 "Dies __"
24 Eur. particle accelerator location
25 Vietnam capital
26 Flee
30 Fam. members
31 Pamphlet ending?
34 Uneven do
35 A votre __!
37 Pull up fasteners
38 Day-__ paint
39 Forest denizens
40 Big name in locks
43 Dr. Tim's hallucinogen
44 Humbled
45 Speakers' platforms
46 __ de corps
48 Coll. hotshot
49 Represent in relief
51 Rouen's river
53 Coeur d'__, ID
55 Part of M.I.T.
56 Freeze, Fido!
59 Cool or groovy
60 Potash
61 Miner matter
62 Disencumber
63 Pronounce



By Jim Page
New York, NY
8/29/06

Monday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	L	M	■	A	R	E	N	A	■	P	O	S	H
O	H	I	O	■	B	O	Z	O	S	■	E	C	H	O
K	E	E	P	Y	O	U	R	S	H	I	R	T	O	N
E	M	U	■	E	D	N	A	■	■	S	T	A	V	E
■	■	■	S	L	E	D	■	S	C	O	L	D	E	D
A	N	N	A	L	S	■	B	O	O	B	Y	■	■	■
N	O	U	N	■	■	D	R	A	M	A	■	W	E	T
T	A	K	E	A	D	E	E	P	B	R	E	A	T	H
S	H	E	■	R	I	T	E	S	■	■	M	I	C	E
■	■	■	F	A	R	E	D	■	B	L	I	T	H	E
C	A	L	I	B	E	R	■	D	U	E	T	■	■	■
A	L	I	B	I	■	■	B	A	D	E	■	A	Y	E
S	I	T	B	A	C	K	A	N	D	R	E	L	A	X
A	C	H	E	■	P	I	N	C	H	■	S	A	K	I
S	E	E	R	■	A	T	S	E	A	■	P	S	S	T

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.
8/29/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You strive to have a well-ordered life. This gives you peace of mind. However, you're not rigid. In fact, you're very adaptable. You improvise extremely well. It's just that you like things to be done efficiently and as professionally as possible. It's time to get rid of something this year to create room for something new and exciting to enter next year.

Birthdate of: Elliott Gould, actor; Carla Gugino, actress; Rebecca De Mornay, actress

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a lucky time for you! Many of you will receive surprise gifts and unexpected opportunities through others. Enjoy your good fortune!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Relations with experts, counselors, partners and members of the general public are extremely positive. Expect to meet someone unusual who can help you in a surprising, unexpected way.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You've been waiting for an opportunity connected with your job. For many of you, that time has come. Accept whatever comes your way. Your window of opportunity will be brief. Act quickly!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): New love and exciting, romantic situations are exhilarating for many of you. Others are rejoicing the addition of children in the family. Grab any opportunity to take a vacation.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Something wonderful blesses your home and family now. You might buy something gorgeous for your home. Perhaps good news affects a loved one. (You have a warm feeling in your tummy about something.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Relations with siblings can improve hugely. Those of you who write, teach, market, sell or are involved in PR in any way are really hot now. You rule!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Marvelous moneymaking opportunities exist for you now. If it's not growing on trees, then shake the bushes. There's money in them thar hills!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Some kind of wonderful, good fortune is possible for many of you. That's because wild, wacky Uranus suddenly stimulates Jupiter in your sign. Make the most of this!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Relations with the government and your efforts to deal with large institutions are very successful now. Work behind the scenes with confidence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Groups, conferences, meetings and even casual relationships with friends are very fortunate for you now. Others think you walk on water! (And maybe you do.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a wonderful time for your career and for making a name for yourself in the community or among your peers. Bosses, VIPs and authority figures are ready to help you now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Marvelous publishing opportunities and lovely chances to travel or explore educational endeavors exist now for your sign. Be ready to act on this.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

								2
		8		4		3		
	3		8		9		1	
		4		8		1		
	2		1	6	4		5	
		9		3		2		
	1		5		7		3	
		3		2		4		
7								

Difficulty Level ★★
8/29

©2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	2	1	7	5	8	6	3	9
7	3	5	9	6	4	8	1	2
6	8	9	2	3	1	5	4	7
5	9	2	8	7	3	1	6	4
3	6	4	1	2	9	7	5	8
8	1	7	5	4	6	2	9	3
9	5	6	3	8	2	4	7	1
2	4	3	6	1	7	9	8	5
1	7	8	4	9	5	3	2	6

Difficulty Level ★

Circles of light in photographs

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

"WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE these circles of light appearing in my photos?" Jean [not her real name] recently asked me in a text message .

One picture only has two or three of the circles but some pictures have dozens of them. They sometimes cover the entire frame.

"They seem to be following me wherever I go. I'm getting scared!" Jean cried.

She is a well-known, attractive and dynamic wife of a ranking government official who has made a name for herself for her philanthropic and social work. She used to anchor a radio program focusing on women's rights and issues.

When Jean showed me the photos that terrified her, I found that the circular objects were nothing more than orbs, which many people had lately been catching with their cameras, specially digital ones.

They are, as far as I have gathered, totally harmless and should not be cause for fear or apprehension.

Nothing to fear

I told Jean that of the half a dozen people I knew, in whose photos orbs appeared, no evil or negative thing had happened to them.

Jean was visibly relieved. But then she asked, "Why are they following me? When I was in Rome, they appeared in pictures I took there. I went to China and they were also there. And here at home, they still appear in my pictures."

I said, "Maybe they want you to acknowledge their existence, or maybe they want to convey a message to you. I really can't tell. But whatever it is, there is nothing to fear from them."

The first to call my attention to this photographic phenomenon was the movie actress Rosanna Roces about two years ago. She was surprised when the orbs appeared all over the pictures she took in her farm in Antipolo and in their house near Fairview, Quezon City.

She couldn't see them with the naked eye; they only appeared in photographs. Why? We can't tell. Somebody explained to me that new cameras could capture objects much faster than our eyes could see.

Osang told me later she could even command the orbs to go to, let's say, the foot or head of a person. When she took his/her picture, the orbs would be seen only where she asked them to be.

Dust particles

Some skeptics have advanced the theory that these are nothing more than dust particles caught by the camera. But if these were merely dust particles, why do the orbs appear in one frame and not in the next or the next?

And why do they vary in size, even in shape? Although mostly circular, Osang had orbs that were diamond-shaped.

I have a theory based on my observations and answers of people who have captured orbs in their cameras. First, they could be spirits of the dead that chose to appear as circular lights so as not scare people. Second, they could be elementals similar to St. Elmo's Fire. Or third, they could be ET's or extraterrestrials.

I believe the orbs appearing to Osang and to Jean are ET's.

When the orbs are blown up or enlarged, we sometimes find geometric figures, strange writings and even faces in them. In one of the pictures taken by Jean, we saw a very clear image of an ET's face.

Why are they following people like Osang and Jean? I really don't know. I advised them to be aware of their thoughts and their environment. Perhaps in due time these invisible creatures will show themselves to us and we can tell them, "Take us to your leader!"

Not new

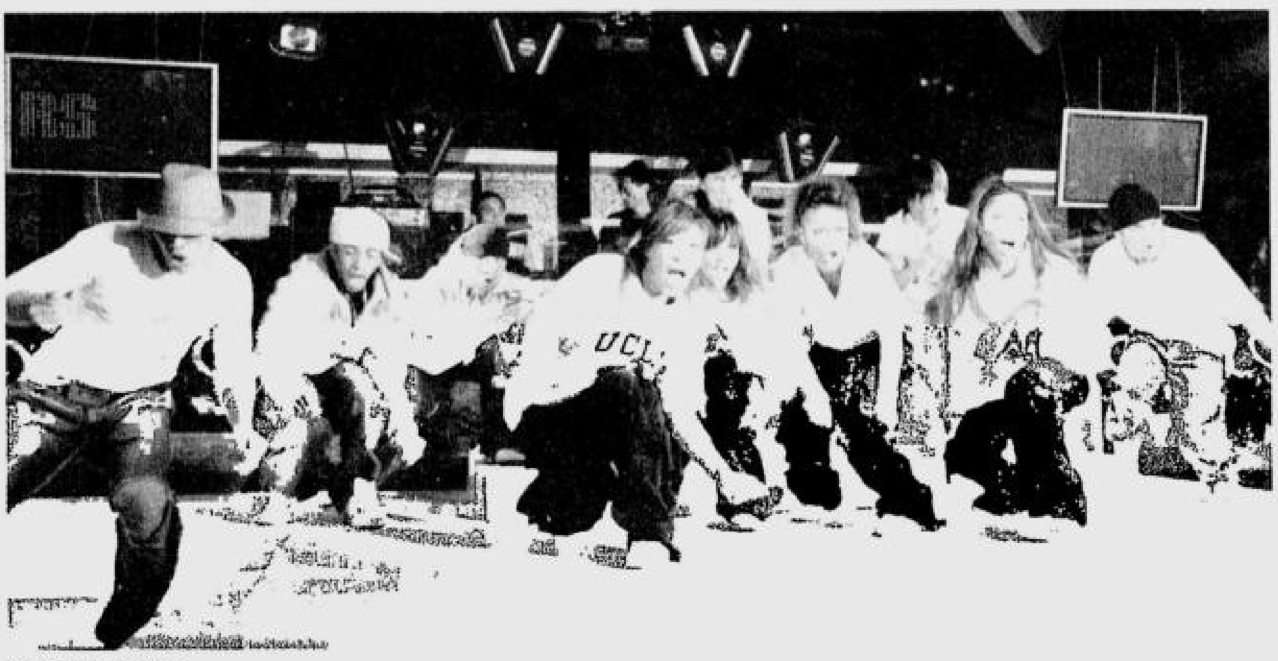
The appearance of orbs in photos is not really a recent phenomenon. They only appear more frequently now than before and in greater numbers with the development of digital cameras.

In a British series of books on the supernatural, for example, I saw a picture taken in 1949 of a large orb beside the person being photographed. The photo was taken in a yard in Japan. The caption simply said the mysterious object just appeared in the photo. They didn't have a name for it at that time.

The need for further investigation of this photographic phenomenon is obvious, but nobody so far has shown any interest. Since there seems to be nothing strange or bad that happens to people from photographing these objects, there is little, if any, interest in studying them in depth.

But this attitude must change if we are to understand the nature of this phenomenon. Perhaps after close scrutiny, orbs may indeed be nothing more than reflection of light. But my gut feel or instinct tells me there's more to these orbs than meets the eye.

Note: I will be on a lecture tour of Sri Lanka and India, Sept. 3-28, upon the invitation of the Sri Lankan and Indian chapters of the Young Presidents Organization, an international association of top level executives, based in Dallas, Texas. During this period my column may not come out regularly.



THE ALL STARS

TEAM Manila

A salute to extreme icons

ASTRING-O-SOL ICE Extreme recently feted "extreme" individuals, people it considered as revolutionary, excellent, world-class and a cut above the rest.

Honored as Extreme Icons at an exclusive party at Embassy Superclub at Fort Bonifacio, Global City were famous figures in fashion, sports, performing arts and advocacy for their "extreme" achievements and contribution to the country.

Among the Extreme Icons were Isabel Roces; members of Team Everest; Manny Pacquiao; Lauren Dyogi; Richard Gutierrez; Amina Aranaz; Team Manila; DJ Eman; Paolo Pineda; racers Dado Peña, Tyson Sy and Michelle Bumgarner; Rock Ed; Raya Martin; and the All-Stars.

The new Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme is a revolutionary mouthwash with time-release anti-bacterial compound (Chlorhexidine) to fight morning breath. By gargling at bedtime you wake up with a fresh, clean feeling in your mouth.

The cool lemon-lime flavor leaves a refreshing blast of freshness in the mouth. The new Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme is available in 60-ml, 120-ml, 250-ml and 360-ml bottles.

GSK'S Martha Sazon with Team Everest

Rejuvenate your skin

From page C1

food we eat to extract the nutrients needed by the body.

Skin rejuvenator

One of the best beautifiers is sleep. When we sleep skin cells regenerate. Growth hormones are also released while we sleep, stimulating collagen and keratin production.

Notice how pale and dull skin becomes when you have lack sleep. To avoid getting lines, try sleeping on your back.

Don't just sleep to rest, sleep to beautify. That's why it is called "beauty sleep."

Great moisturizer

Water isn't just a lifer-saver. It's a skin-saver, too. Drink 1.5 or more liters of water daily. That's the open secret to beautiful, radiant skin. Experts agree that the temperature of water is important. Tepid is best.

Always bring a bottle of water, especially when you are going on long trips.

Skin waker-upper

Wrap an ice cube in a towelette and pat gently on your skin. Tired-looking, dull complexion will get back its pinkish glow. The regimen is great for closing pores and freshening makeup. Pat dry.

Anti-aging helper

Stress, whether emotional or mental, can make you age faster. Try to minimize stress by not thinking too intently about your problems. Keep busy and remain centered.

Whenever possible, find a quiet moment for yourself. Close your eyes and listen to your slow breathing for 10 minutes. Have a massage.

Love and light!

***Note:** The telephone numbers of Dr. Cris Mancao, Mancao Myotheraphy Clinic, in last week's column, "The Language of Pain," are 6876174 and 6366848.*

Cubao mall hosts sports events

GATEWAY MALL, THE PREmiere shopping destination in the heart of QC, is a place for big names in sports, as well.

The mall that is directly connected to the mecca of sports and entertainment, the Araneta Coliseum, recently played host to two of the newest superstars of the American National Basketball Association (NBA).

Andre Iguodala of the Philadelphia 76ers and power forward Channing Frye of the New York Knicks, together with the Silver Spurs dancers, were in the country for the NBA Madness Tour.

The event was highlighted by the Celebrity Jam at the Big Dome, with the visiting NBA players playing an exhibition game with local stars. The event also featured performances by the country's top bands.

Gateway Mall also hosted a week-long exhibit of the Philippine Touring Car Championship (PTCC) at the mall activity area.

The PTCC is the largest Philippine touring car grid in the history of motor sports with 27 car teams in its roster. It chose Gateway for its first car showcase in 2006 because of mall's proximity to many race-car enthusiasts.

Present at the opening of the exhibit were racing greats like Pacho Blanco, Kookie Ramirez and Pocholo Ramirez who talked about racing.

The two events were designed to show that Gateway Mall was not just a place for the discriminating shopper but also for people of varied interests, including diehard sports fans.

PHILIPPINE car-racing champions with Gateway Mall's Val Peramide at the car exhibit opening ceremonies

SILVER Spurs Dancers at the Gateway Pavilion with UI COO Manny Atacador

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What are the non-surgical methods of family planning available?

A wide range of non-surgical family planning (FP) methods are available including oral contraceptives (OC) which requires regular daily tablet intake, transdermal patches are changed weekly, injectable contraceptives are injected every 2-3 months, subdermal implants are placed in the upper arm which prevents pregnancy for 3-5 years, intra-uterine devices (IUD) inserted into the woman's uterus are effective for 6-10 years, and the barrier methods includes condoms, spermicides, sponges, diaphragms and cervical caps. While the calendar, cervical mucus, basal body temperature and symptothermal methods comprises the natural family planning and the breastfeeding or lactation amenorrhea method can be used in the first 6 months after delivery if a woman has not yet resumed menstruation and is fully breastfeeding. In selecting a contraceptive method several factors are to be considered, like the need for birth control, effectiveness, ability to comply with method, age, risks and benefits, co-existing health conditions and the cost. Consultation and proper counseling with your doctor will help you determine which method is best for you.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Metro Manila, Dr. Maria Cristina Olea-Quiroga. She specializes in OB-Gynecology. She obtained her medicine degree at UP-College of Medicine in 1995 and took her residency training for OB-Gynecology at UP-PGH. She later finished her fellowship training for Trophoblastic Diseases in 2000. Dr. Quiroga is a fellow of the Philippine Obstetrical & Gynecological Society (POGS) and a current board member of the Philippine Society for the Study of Trophoblastic Diseases. She is married to Engr. Dennis Quiroga and blessed with two children. MEDICard members may avail her consultation services at Mission Hospital (OPD-OB) during Mondays from 3pm to 5pm and Fridays from 10am to 2:30pm.

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard [illegible] H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227
Text: Key-in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe & Touch
E-mail: [illegible]@medicardphils.com Website: www.medicardphils.com

BLACK brigade: Nini Cosca, Irene Razon, Boogie Trinidad, the celebrator Cris Albert, with her sister, the only pearl, Ana Bitong

LIAN and Geny Bautista, Greg and Tess Yang

A COOL musical number from Maricris Bermont-Garcia, with Vince Lahorra on sax

LETICIA Albert and Betty Romulo

Afloat in a sea of red roses

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE HOST and Fila's main man, Butch Albert, with Pastor Gus Lising

GORGEOUS mother and daughter: Sabina L. and mom, Celine Lopez

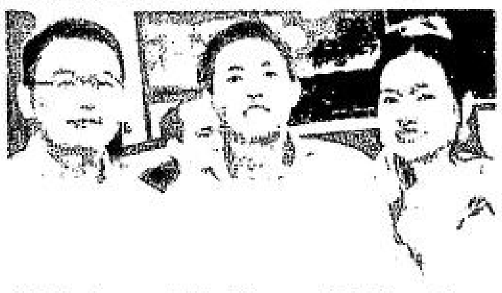
FASHION plate Marivic Vasquez

FRANCES Tan

WANDA Louwallien

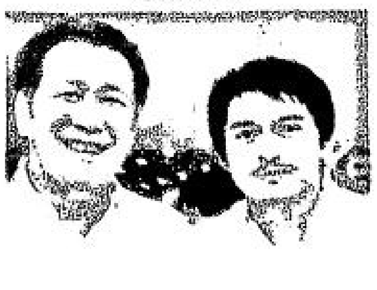
MAKATI City administrator Nick Santiago, Underscretary for Land Transportation Ricardo Alfonso Jr., Mark Cepedo and Macario Te

WINE and car connoisseurs: Alex Lichaytoo, CATS directors Cecilio Pedro and Ben Yam, and Jelson Young


CATS director Felix Chung, with Kenneth and Cindy Yang

GRACE Ang and Jaye Gonzalez

POPULAR couple Corito and Fred Sarabia


BIG boys who love big toys. Boy Ochoa and son Dominic

RED HOT WAS THE CELEBRATION OF Fila's VP and GM, power woman **Cris Albert**, who had just jetted in from her Owner/President Management studies in Harvard, of another fabulous year. Happiness, passion, love filled the hottest dining spot, Red at Shangri-La Hotel, *natch*!

Pals and famille gathered in a sea of red, red roses as Veuve Clicquot champagne flowed. An exquisitely laid-out buffet offered sashimi, ham, oysters, lobster, sea bass and roast beef, *palanggas*.

The ambiance was chic and casual. Well-wishers were headed by the man on the throne of Fila, **Butch Albert**; and included gorgeous **Wanda Louwallien**; beautiful couple **Vince** and **Ana Bitong**; **Deena dela Cruz**; **Stewart Chongson**; **Marty**, **Monique** and **BJ Albert**; **Nini Cosca**; **Celine** and **Sabina Lopez**; **JR Isaac**; **Lian** and **Geny Bautista**; **Greg** and **Tess Yang**; **Irene Razon**; **Pepon Marave**; **Deena dela Cuesta**; fashion plate **Marivic Vasquez**; my favorite persona who makes me look great, **Vicki Belo**; and **Betty Romulo**.

Bar stools and cocktail tables were laid out for easy conversation. Relaxing music was played by **Vince Lahorra** to the delight of the invitees, *palanggas*.

The birthday cake was a simple yet divine butter cake delicately showered with red roses.

Everyone gathered around Cris for a touching short service by Pastor **Gus Lising** and a song by **Maricris Bermont**.

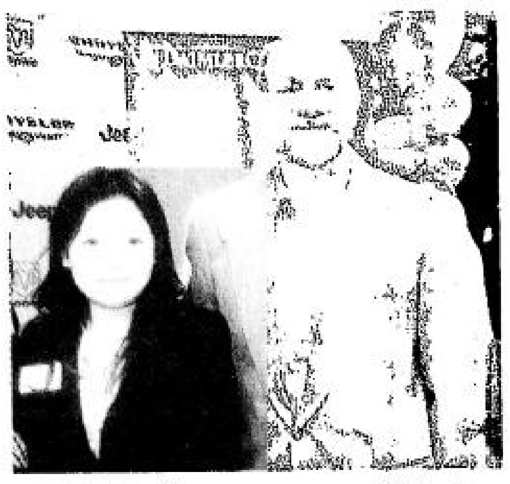
Apres the celebration, Cris made sure the gals went home still in the mood for love with vanille and rose potpourri pouches that also contained red lip gloss, mints and heart-shaped cinnamon candies by **Karisia Bitong**.

A perfect ending to a perfect celebration. Red is definitely her color... Happy birthday, Cris!

A NYT favorite

It was one of those nights of pure indulgence, *palanggas*, when that popular premium vodka, Smirnoff Red, made a grand entrance at Embassy Super Club, at The Fort, but where else?

With booze flowing, you just got to have great music, and so there was, the funky and melodic new sound of The Chillout Project Series producer **Anton Ramos**, who is going back to his roots as a DJ.


CATHAY Pacific country manager Vivian Lo and US Embassy commercial attache Thomas Brennan

MEN of power: Emy Arcilla, CATS Motors Inc. president Felix Ang; DaimlerChrysler SE Asia VP Jochen Carle; corporate communications head, DaimlerChrysler SE Asia, Helfried Scharf; president and CEO of DaimlerChrysler SE Asia, Dr. Rainer Thiel; and Tony Ang

HOT DJ Anton Ramos has completed his new album, "Diskoteca"

As always, with all the free booze and finger food, Embassy was packed sardine-like, dahlings. Manille's hip pack was eager to know what the "fresh sound" was all about. Anton promised to unleash a new album to be released in the fourth quarter of the year.

Smirnoff and DJ Anton were a perfect match, *palanggas*, ushering in the new sound called "Diskoteca."

In a blind taste test of 21 world-class vodkas, Smirnoff was the hands-down favorite of most of the invitees, *natch*. After all, no less than the New York Times declared it its Favorite Vodka. "It also won the Gold Medal in the San Francisco World Spirits Competition," said Smirnoff people.

It was no wonder that almost everyone wobbled home after downing concoctions like the Moscow Mule, Screwdriver, Bloody Mary and Vodka Martini. Well, wouldn't you have wobbled, too, *palanggas*?

Now there are two

CATS Motors Inc., which had been appointed by DaimlerChrysler AG as the distributor in the Philippines of the *tres* chic Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge vehicles, opened its second sales and service facility in Makati, *palanggas*.

Leading the pack was CATS Motors Inc.'s *charmant* president, **Felix Ang**, and well-liked chair **Greg Yu**.

During cocktails, super nice Dr. **Rainer Thiel** said, "We found in CATS Motors Inc. a committed, resourceful and experienced partner in the Philippines. CATS Motors Inc. now offers customers two Mercedes-Benz and two Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge outlets in the greater Manila area. Our great products, combined with excellent facilities and utmost customer orientation, offer a competitive edge for CATS Motors Inc. here in the Philippines. We congratulate CATS Motors Inc. for its new, impressive showroom in Makati City."

Then Dutch-Filipino beauty **Aliya Parcs** serenaded the invitees and had them asking for more at the end of her performance, *palanggas*.

CATS Motors Inc.'s **Emy Arcilla** urged the guests to do impromptu numbers. Called to perform were **Richard Merk**, **Ricky Davao**, **Cito Beltran** and **Dominic Ochoa**.

Naturellement, with all the gorgeous wheels, our town's hot big boys just had to be there to check out the new toys, dahlings. Guests included car enthusiasts **Boy Ochoa**, **Frank Koh**, **Jojo Silverio**, **Rufo Colayco**, **Manny Dimaculangan**, **Freddie Mendoza**, **Tony Ang**, **Anthony Te**, and **Raoul Romulo**.

Hey, check out, and even test-drive, the latest cool Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge vehicles at Chrysler Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Extension. For more information, call 8157777 or visit www.chrysler.com.ph.

SUPER close pals: Bubbles Paraiso, Raymond Gutierrez and Michelle Gonzales

GORGEOUS Herrera gals, Tina and Teresa

PRETTY as a picture: Anna Powers and Savannah Lumen

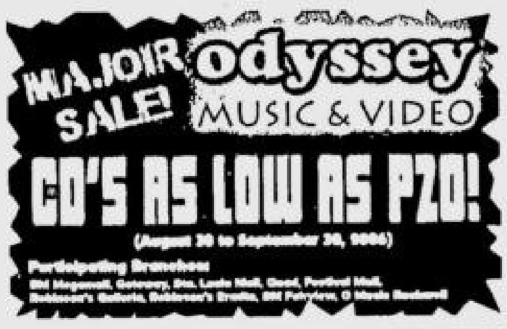
FIVE gorgeous models, all Ideal People, with Dr. Homer Cudel

DENISE Montecillo and DJ Mars Miranda

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph


MAJOR SALE! odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO
CD'S AS LOW AS P20!
Participating Branches

INSIDE

- **Dollywood: Shedding light on** ‘dark’ encounters /D4
- **Yesterday: The creator of** ‘Pedro Penduko’ /D6

Environmental docus tackle grim realities

FROM "Wings in the Water"

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

IN THE RECENTLY concluded 2nd Moonrise Film Festival at the Gateway Mall, several documentaries tackled diverse environmental and cultural issues specific to our country. A number of them show how exceedingly fragile the environment has become in certain areas, while other efforts ultimately encourage their viewers to take part in contributing to safer living conditions for some featured communities.

A project of the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education, the well-attended two-day event is a commendable endeavor that succeeds in informing and educating students and non-students alike on rarely discussed issues.

Garbage

“Hinga… Hingal… Hingalo!,” directed by Jose F. Cuaresma, provocatively details the devastating effects of garbage-burning. The indiscriminate disposal and eventual incineration of certain types of plastics can cause serious respiratory illnesses, the documentary reveals through several interviewees’ testimonials.

Different dump sites and their neighboring residential areas are visited; affected community members and environmental experts lament that certain afflictions are becoming commonplace because of some erring parties’ indifference. Straightforward and eye-opening, the 45-minute “Hinga” also gives an explicit look at the country's continuously towering mounds of trash, and the scavengers that try to live off of them.

Mesmerizing

“Wings in the Water—The Birds in Candaba Swamp,” a 14-minute film by Alain Del Pascua, is a mesmerizing glimpse into the Pampanga territory that serves as an ongoing stopover for a significant number of migratory birds. Beautifully shot and accompanied by a breezy crescendo, the short piece captures the tranquility of the haven, and the unbridled movement of some of the exotic flocks that regroup there. While there are no close-up shots of some the numerous bird species mentioned in its on-screen roundup, it still works as a well-researched film that calls attention to the protection of the endangered and decreasing number of birds that find safety and comfort in that particular territory.

> Films in the 2nd Moonrise festival showed how extremely fragile our world has become

Treachery

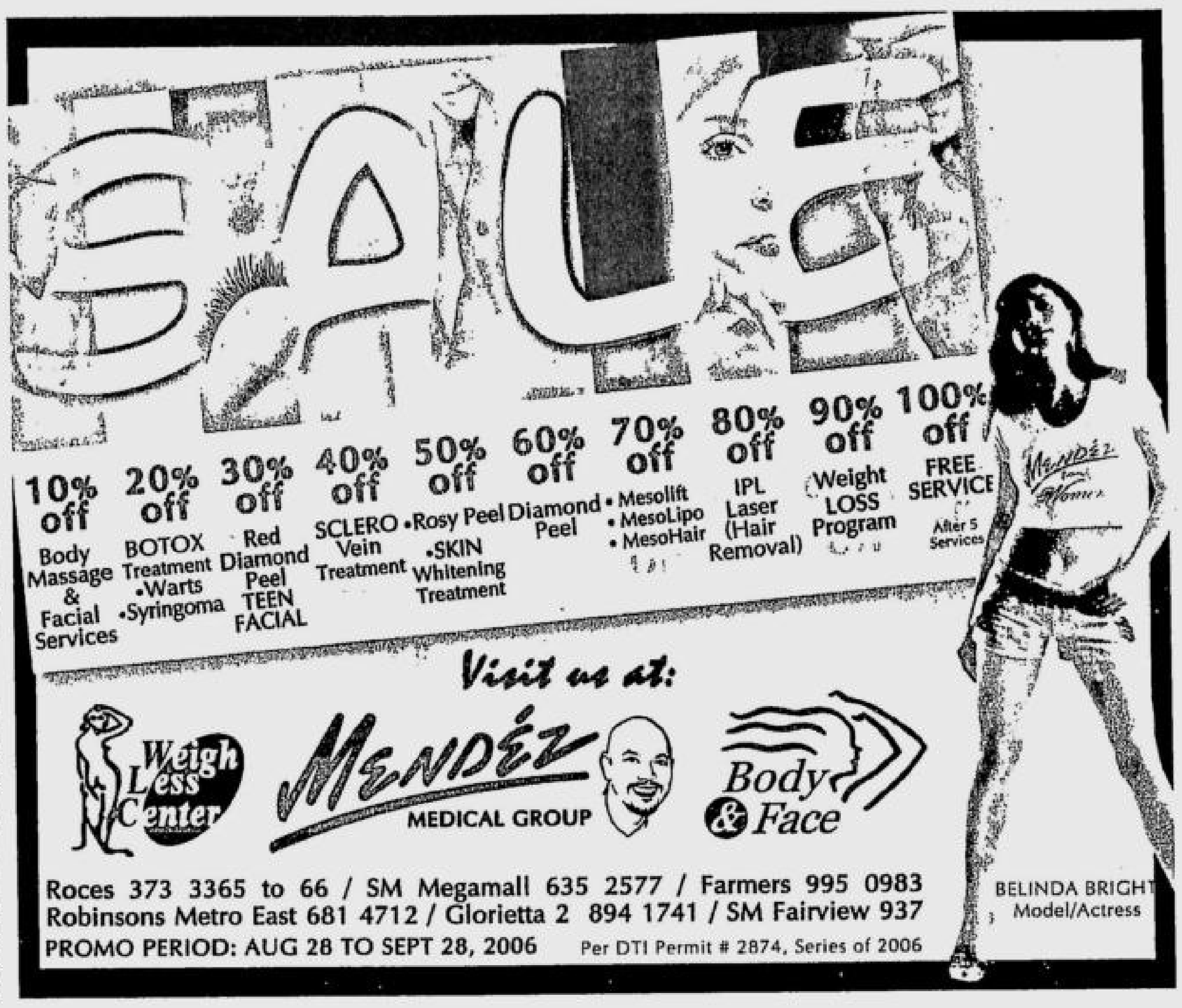
There’s beauty and treachery in the emotional “The Silent Natives of Fuga,” directed and co-narrated by Canadian Karie Garnier. Fuga Island is a paradise, but Garnier and his Filipina wife discover, while searching for long-lost ancient burial jars, that the peaceful veneer hides a poor and suffering populace. The 46-minute docu only has a few scenes that show actual motion, but it effectively makes use of a different technique. It’s mostly a series of still shots, cleverly connected by a jagged, slide show-like projection of images, as well as by dramatic fade-ins and fade-outs.

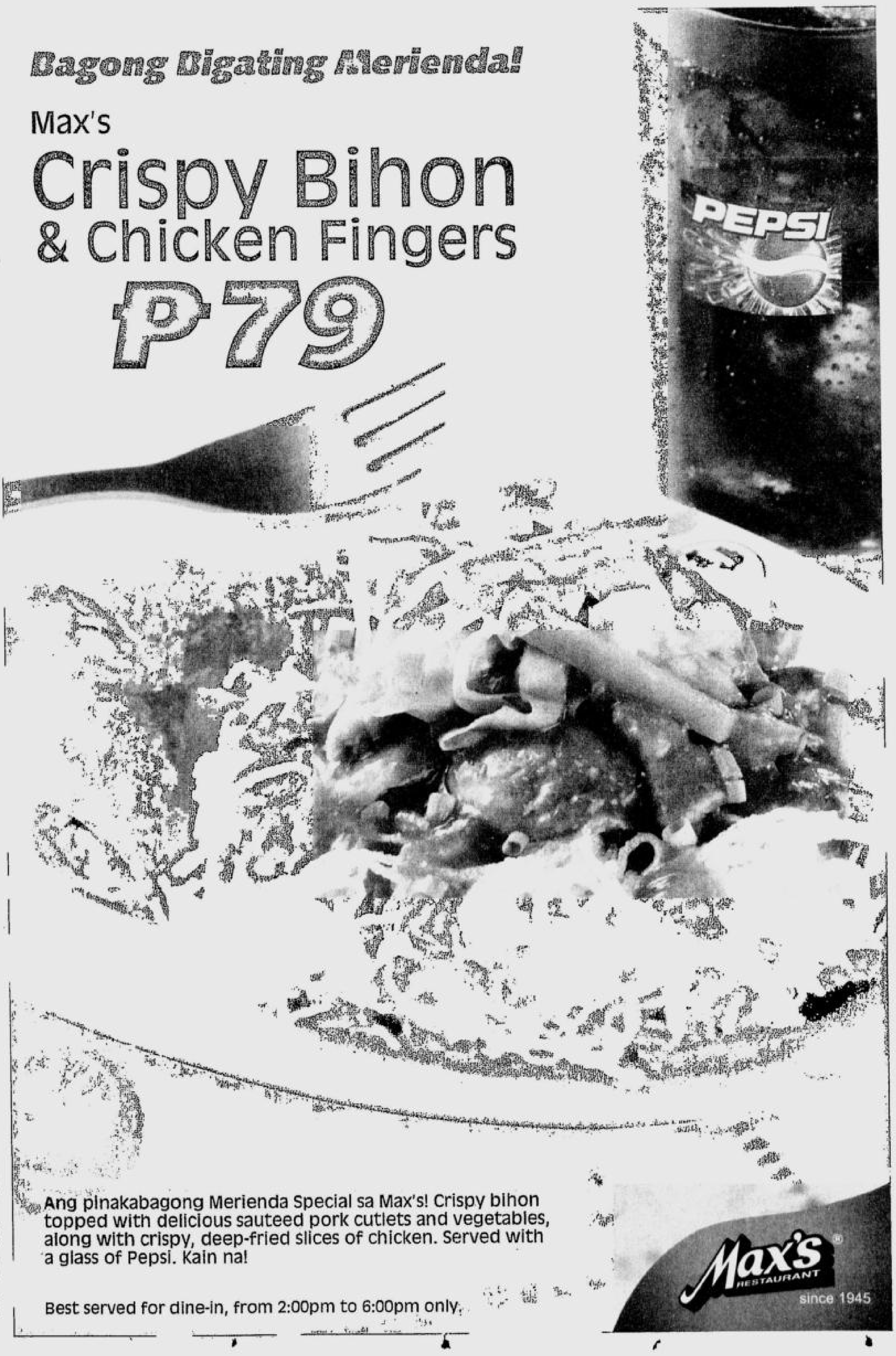
The expert splicing of Garnier’s select audio recordings with the oft-striking stationary imagery also keeps the experience orderly. The documentary decries the plight of the starving natives, their lack of medical supplies, and the alarming number of sick and dying children. It's powerful, and quite depressing.

Longer runs

These are but three of the featured documentaries. Perhaps in the future, the organizers can have them exhibited in the malls longer, with more repeat screenings. But according to CEAE representatives, they will be screened again soon for schools that have requested for them, as well as in alternative venues that are willing to accommodate them. They are scheduled to exhibit them again in other parts of the country as well, as part of the organization’s road tour.

That’s great, because the Moonrise Film Festival entries need to be seen, and soon, as they can inspire positive change and protection for the country’s fast-depleting resources and different cultural treasures.


SALE
10% off Body Massage & Facial Services
20% off BOTOX Treatment •Warts •Syringoma
30% off Red Diamond Peel TEEN FACIAL
40% off SCLERO Vein Treatment
50% off •Rosy Peel •SKIN Whitening Treatment
60% off Diamond Peel
70% off •Mesolift •MesoLipo •MesoHair
80% off IPL Laser (Hair Removal)
90% off Weight LOSS Program
100% off FREE SERVICE After 5 Services
Visit us at:
Weigh Less Center
MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
Body & Face
Roces 373 3365 to 66 / SM Megamall 635 2577 / Farmers 995 0983
Robinsons Metro East 681 4712 / Glorietta 2 894 1741 / SM Fairview 937
PROMO PERIOD: AUG 28 TO SEPT 28, 2006
Per DTI Permit # 2874, Series of 2006
BELINDA BRIGHT
Model/Actress


Bagong Bigating Merienda!
Max's
Crispy Bihon & Chicken Fingers
P79
Ang pinakabagong Merienda Special sa Max's! Crispy bihon topped with delicious sauteed pork cutlets and vegetables, along with crispy, deep-fried slices of chicken. Served with a glass of Pepsi. Kain na!
Best served for dine-in, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm only.
Max's RESTAURANT
since 1945

MMTA
METRO MANILA
THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 LITTLE MAN
2 CLICK
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 CLICK
PREMIERE
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 LITTLE MAN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 LITTLE MAN
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 HADA

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604286, 8433994
1 SUKOB
2 HADA
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 LITTLE MAN

THEATRES
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 ANT BULLY

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
AMERICAN HAUNTING
JUST MY LUCK
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SUKOB
2 MIAMI VICE
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 LITTLE MAN
7 FIERCE PEOPLE
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
9 MORTUARY
10 OH MY GHOST

Blue Wave MAR. MINON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9349927
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 LITTLE MAN
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 HADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 SUKOB
4 LITTLE MAN
5 RESERVED

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 OH MY GHOST
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 LITTLE MAN
2 JUST MY LUCK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SUKOB
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SAINT ANGE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.4963 or 72
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST
3 LITTLE MAN
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 SUKOB
2 STORM BREAKER
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 LITTLE MAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 OH MY GHOST
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 LITTLE MAN
2 ANT BULLY / JUST MAY LUCK
3 OH MY GHOST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4746
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 TAMARA
2 AKO SIYA D IKW
3 TURN ON
4 MORTUARY

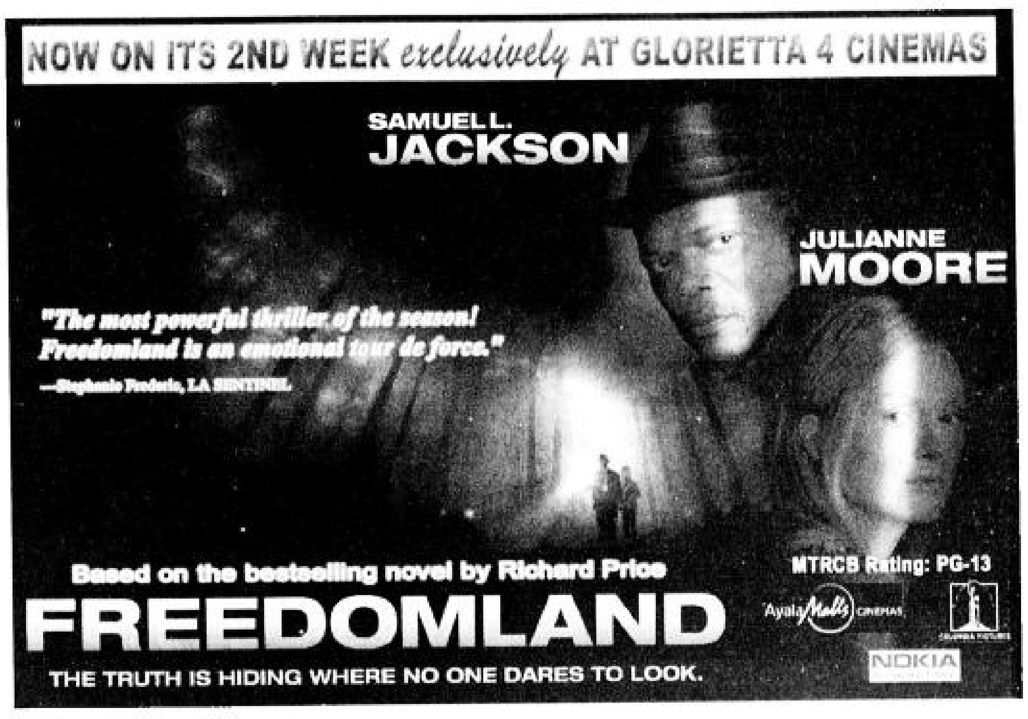
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 LITTLE MAN
2 KAPAG PALAY NADING BIGAS MAY BUMAYO
3 HADA
4 SUKOB
5 OH MY GHOST

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 UNITED 93
2 LITTLE MAN
3 WORLF CREEK
4 OH MY GHOST

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SUKOB
2 PAKAWALANG PUSO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

The THX experience.
Giving you more than the front seat.
A unique cinematic experience from the largest THX certified theatre operator in the country.
Ayala Malls Cinemas
THX
Ayala Malls CINEMAS


NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK exclusively AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
SAMUEL L. JACKSON
JULIANNE MOORE
"The most powerful thriller of the season! Freedomland is an emotional tour de force."
—Stephanie Frederic, LA SENTINEL
Based on the bestselling novel by Richard Price
FREEDOMLAND
THE TRUTH IS HIDING WHERE NO ONE DARES TO LOOK.
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
NOKIA

A Seat fit for the Li'l King
Introducing the Ayala Malls Cinemas BOOSTER BUDDY.
Its two-sided design provides height options for children of different ages.
It has a cup and candy holder. It's odorless,and has no sharp corners.
Its lightweight design allows children to carry their own seat.
Ayala Malls CINEMAS

OPENS TOMORROW exclusively AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
Ayala CINEMAS
ANDY GARCIA
DUSTIN HOFFMAN
TOMAS MILIAN
BILL MURRAY
INES SASTRE
An epic adventure of historic intrigue
... & timeless romance.
In a time of chaos... can love prevail...
A film by Academy Award-nominee Andy Garcia
THE LOST CITY
LIONSGATE
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
VIVA
Ayala
glorietta
GREENBELT

Marlon Wayans digitized from 6'2" to 2'6" in novelty romp

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE MADE A MENTAL NOTE TO watch the comedy film "Little Man" because we wanted to see how the production made extensive use of digital visual effects to "shrink" **Marlon Wayans** from a full-sized, 6'2" adult actor to a 2'6" midget who could pass himself off as a child.

Well, we got what we wanted, and we were intrigued about how the movie did transform Wayans into a foundling who could be carried in co-star **Shawn Wayan's** arms with the greatest of ease.

How did they pull it off? We remembered the early days of digital effects and the film "Forrest Gump," particularly the scene in which **Gary Sinise** was believably depicted as an amputee and shown with no legs.

That was an amazing moment and viewers tried to figure out how the actor's legs were hidden from view, only to eventually give up and marvel at the scene's creative use of digital effects to "erase" Sinise's legs.

It's been quite a number of years since that amazing scene in "Forrest Gump," and "Little Man" shows how much more sophisticated and potent the technology has become.

Marlon Wayans does everything as a digitized midget and "baby," and the visual effect is so totally convincing that we eventually pay it the supreme compliment of forgetting about it.

Unfortunately, the film doesn't have much more to offer than this unique plot premise and digital marvel. It does attempt to flesh out its slim premise with some outrageous characterizations and semi-gross jokes, and some of them *are* interesting, but not enough to make the production thoroughly delightful.

Still, we must point out that the actors who play the "baby's" instant adoptive parents are enthusiastic and hardworking, so the movie's "family" scenes are lively and endearing.

We wish we could say the same about the plot's "criminal" aspect, but its sequences focusing on goons' attempts to retrieve the huge diamond that the midget has stolen turn out to be lame and oh, so predictable.

So, it's in the digital effects and family relationship areas that the movie scores. It even gets to the point when the cynical midget, who's been unloved all his life, becomes emotionally involved with his new "parents."

This is an "aw-shucks" moment that's surprising to find in "just" a novelty romp, but it does add a higher level to the generally wacky hi-jinks.

Finally, we should commend Marlon Wayans for his crusty and yet occasionally endearing portrayal of the movie's midget character. The digital shrinking hasn't reduced the sassy vitality of his performance, that's for sure.

He may not be all that lovable as a sassy "baby," but he's dynamite as an entertainer—no matter what size he may happen to be!

'The Best of Us'

AYEN **Munji Laurel** and **Raymond Lauchengco** are a perfect musical match in their forthcoming concert together, "The Best of Us." Set to be performed at Greenhills' Teatrino at 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 1, 14 and 21, the show features standards, the blues, OPM tunes and songs from musical theater. Both Ayen and Raymond love performing in musicals, so their numbers from the musical theater repertoire are expected to be particularly well-sung and deeply felt. Call 638-7776.

Justine Timberlake

JIVE Recording artist **Justin Timberlake** will release the follow-up to his seven-million worldwide debut release "Justified" on Sept. 12. The follow-up is titled "Future Sex/Love Sounds," and Justin is on a US club tour to preview the new album. Producers include Justin, JawBreakers, Timbaland and Rick Rubin.

At the Met Museum

AT 2 p.m. on Aug. 30, Artist's Talk features **Napoleon V. Abueva** on Guillermo E. Tolentino and Portraiture in Sculpture.

At 2 p.m. on Sept. 5, Dr. **Leovino Ma. Garcia**, Dean of the School of Humanities at the Ateneo de Manila University, lectures on "Charting the Philippines: Maps and the Colonial Enterprise."

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

AMERICAN DREAMZ PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15	LITTLE MAN R13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:05
CLICK PG13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	ANT BULLY G 1:10,3:15,5:20,7:25	SNAKE ON THE PLANE PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 144041
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 CLICK 12:00, 2:30, 5:00 7:30, 10:00 PG-13
CINEMA 2 LITTLE MAN 11:20, 1:55, 4:30 7:05, 9:40 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 11:20, 1:30, 3:40 5:50, 8:00, 10:10 R-13
CINEMA 4 SNAKE ON A PLANE 11:45, 2:05, 4:20 6:35, 8:50 PG-13
CINEMA 5 LITTLE MAN 11:45, 2:25, 5:00 7:35, 10:10 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

AUG. 24,25 & 31	GARY V	8:00PM
AUG. 26, 2006	NONOY ZUNIGA	8:00PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO CLASSICO	8:00PM
AUG. 24-26, 2006	DAVID POMERANZ	9:00PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

ROUNDUP

Spielberg-Zhang project

HONG Kong—Steven Spielberg's offices have played down recent reports of a possible collaboration with famed Chinese director Zhang Yimou on a screen version of the classic Chinese novel, "Journey to the West."

The reports surfaced as it was announced in April. Spielberg had signed on as a consultant to Zhang in designing the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Guo Na, spokeswoman for Zhang's production company, New Picture Film Co., said Tuesday Zhang and Spielberg intend to work together but just haven't settled on a project.

She said filming will start after the 2008 Olympics.

"We hope it's a science fiction film," she said.

Min Lee, AP

Indian TV monitored

BOMBAY, India—Movies shown on Indian television will be monitored for violence, nudity and bad language—and yanked off the air under a court order if deemed unsuitable for children—broadcasters said Thursday.

The Bombay High Court earlier this week ruled that all movies shown on TV networks in western Maharashtra state must be approved for general TV by India's government-appointed Censor Board.

Since movies can't be broadcast separately for one state, key broadcasters Star and Sony networks said the ban on adult rated movies would apply nationwide.

Police will monitor TV broadcasts and prosecute those who show movies not approved by the Censor Board, under the court order. *Ramola Talwar Badam, AP*

Film fest feud

ROME—IT'S THE lion against the she-wolf.

Italy's film industry is bracing for a war of the festivals between Venice's venerable "Mostra del Cinema," whose 63rd edition starts on Aug. 30, and Rome's new international film competition which makes its debut in mid-October.

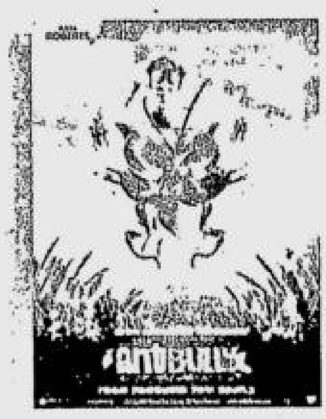
Vague pledges of cooperation between the two events have done little to quash talk of an inevitable rivalry that could cast a shadow over Venice's Lido, which is already battling organizational and financial problems of its own.

"They are bound to be competing with each other for films and stars, because the dates are so close," said Tullio Kezich, a leading Italian film critic and a Venice festival veteran. "Rome is perfectly entitled to have its own festival. But why not do it in March, rather than barely a month after Venice ends?" *Silvia Aloisi, Reuters*

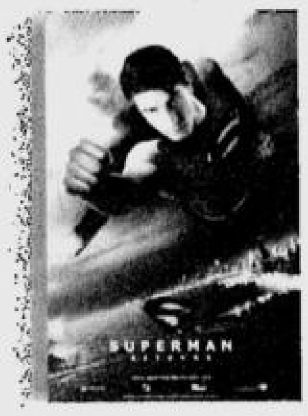
SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-8888*
Your life as a movie
BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

NOW SHOWING AT SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE



See the entire movie in IMAX 3D
P 250 (Matinee, Mondays to Thursdays)
P 300 (From 5 p.m. onwards on weekdays and all screenings on weekends)



See select scenes in IMAX 3D
P 350 (Admission Price)

Please call 556-IMAX or 556 0242 for screening time and reservations

MTRCB Rating: G (General Audience)

IMAX is a registered trademark of the IMAX Corporation

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
EVEREST IN FULL IMAX 3D
11:30AM Admission Price- P150
ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
1:00PM 3:00PM 5:00PM 7:00PM
P250 -Matinee (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri Sun)
SUPERMAN RETURNS
9:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 LITTLE MAN
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
5 MORTUARY/
MIAMI VICE
6 OH MY GHOST
PREMIERE CINEMA
SUKOB
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
PODIUM
CINEMA 1
LITTLE MAN
CINEMA 2
SNAKE ON A PLANE
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 OH MY GHOST
9 MORTUARY
10 MIAMI VICE
11 CLICK
12 LITTLE MAN

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 CLICK
6 MORTUARY
7 STORMBREAKER
8 OH MY GHOST
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
10 SUKOB
11 KUBRADOR
12 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 KUBRADOR
2 CLICK
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 LITTLE MAN
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 SUKOB
9 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
10 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
11 MIAMI VICE
12 AMERICAN DREAMZ

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 LITTLE MAN
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 KUBRADOR
7 MIAMI VICE
8 MORTUARY
9 OH MY GHOST
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 MORTUARY
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 SUKOB

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 CLICK
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
5 SUKOB
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 FIERCE PROPLE
8 MORTUARY
9 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 LITTLE MAN
2 CLICK
3 MORTUARY
4 SUKOB
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 SNAKE ON A PLANE
7 KUBRADOR
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
10 MIAMI VICE
11 OH MY GHOST
12 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 STORMBREAKER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE

movietime PROMO

NOW SHOWING
4 new SM Cinemas have just opened at

Watch to a whole new experience with the
MOVIE BUNDLE for only P170
includes 1 Deluxe movie ticket, Regular Popcorn & 12 oz. Iced Tea
(Also available for Premiere Section at P190)
from July 29 to August 31, 2006

SM CINEMA

Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 0572, Series of 2006

4th level, The Block SM City North Edsa

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CLICK
4 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 LITTLE MAN
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 MORTUARY
2 CLICK
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 OH MY GHOST
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 SUKOB
7 LITTLE MAN
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 LITTLE MAN
3 ANT BULLY/JUST MY LUCK
4 SUKOB

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 LOVEWRECKED/ CLICK

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST
4 LITTLE MAN
5 KUBRADOR/ CLICK
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 CLICK
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 OH MY GHOST
4 MORTUARY

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 LITTLE MAN
4 SUKOB

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 CLICK
6 FIERCE PEOPLE
7 SUKOB
8 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 STORMBREAKER
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 ANT BULLY

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MIAMI
2 CLICK
3 ANT BULLY
4 LITTLE MAN

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EVENT CALENDAR SM SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR

MAXMEDIA presents

the **APO** experience
September 2, 2006
Saturday • 8:30 pm
Tickets at P800 • P1,100 • P1,325
THE PREMIERE THEATER
SM MALL OF ASIA
Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9118

1 CLICK • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
5 LITTLE MAN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
6 OH MY GHOST!
12:00 2:20 4:40
7 HADA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 MORTUARY
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
9 MIAMI VICE
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
10 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LITTLE MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 HADA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
4 MORTUARY
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
5 CLICK
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
6 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 AMERICAN DREAMZ
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
4 LITTLE MAN
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
5 SUKOB
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 HADA
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
7 CLICK
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00
8 MORTUARY
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MORTUARY
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 STORMBREAKER
2 OH MY GHOST!
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 LITTLE MAN
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

Robinsons MOVIEWORLD CAn be YOUR CINEMA!

Open for advance screenings, product launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions. *PLUS! Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.*

For interested parties, you may contact **Marketing Services Department** 687-7945 to 47 • 633-4446 • 636-2894 locals 14/15

THX CERTIFIED CINEMA

CINEMAS
Seeit At its Best!

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 STORMBREAKER
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WOLF CREEK
4 LITTLE MAN

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 UNITED 93
2 LITTLE MAN
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST!

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 STORMBREAKER
2 TAMARA
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 MIAMI VICE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 WOLF CREEK
4 LITTLE MAN

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 TAMARA
2 MIAMI VICE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 LITTLE MAN

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SUKOB
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 OH MY GHOST!
5 LITTLE MAN
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 LITTLE MAN
2 CLICK
3 STORMBREAKER
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 AMERICAN DREAMZ
6 OH MY GHOST!

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 STORMBREAKER
2 TAMARA
3 LITTLE MAN
4 WOLF CREEK

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call **Marketing Services Department** at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Hot tribute album

KITCHIE Nadal

"KAMINAPO MUNA," a tribute album to the Apo Hiking Society released by Universal Records, will be formally launched on Aug. 31, 7 p.m. in Eastwood, Libis.

The bands who performed the 18 songs in the collection are Parokya ni Edgar, Orange and Lemons, Kamikazee, Itchyworms, Sponge Cola, Imago, Sugarfree, Boldstar, Barbie Almalbis, Sandwich, Drip, Sound, Top Suzara, Rocksteddy, Moonstar88, Shamrock, Kitchie Nadal and The Dawn.

Nina's 'I Do'

SPIN CITY

Nina's latest CD carries her hit R&B single "I Do." Other genres showcased are pop and jazz.

Bonus track "Ang Araw Ko."

Among the composers for the album are Andrew Fromm, who penned Christian Bautista's hit ballad, "The Way You Look At Me."

From Nick Lachey

"What's Left of Me," Nick Lachey's "confessional and introspective" album, features the single of the same title.

Lachey contributed to the writing of eight songs in the collection.

The album, from Sony BMG Music Entertainment, is now available in record stores nationwide.

Crystal voice

The album "Marri Nallos The Crystal Voice of Asia" has been released by Sony-BMG. Carrier single "Mahal Naman Kita" is the theme song of the Asianovela "Sorry I Love You" on QTV11.

The album includes Marri's version of John Lennon's "Imagine" and a duet with Juan Rodrigo of Paul Anka's "You Are My Destiny."

Drizzle debut

The group Drizzle has just released its debut album "Love Without Logic" under Galaxy Records.

The band, whose members hail from Cagayan de Oro, has fronted for bands like Rivermaya, Bamboo and Paolo Santos.

They are Maya Reyes and Vivi Viduya on vocals, Bong Flores on drums and Wilbert on lead guitar.

Jazz hits

Jazz vocalist Jacqui Magno's latest CD titled "The Very Thought of You" contains her version of 12 enduring standards, among them, "The Very Thought of You," "Day By Day," "Our Love is Here To Stay," "What Are You Doing The Rest of Your Love," "Days of Wine and Roses" and "How High The Moon."

The album, which was arranged and conceptualized by Toti Fuentes and produced by Manna Records of Merk Media, is available at Merk's Bar and Bistro, Merk Media, Music One, Tower Records and Mag.Net.

'Red Hot OPM'

Red Box Karaoke, in cooperation with Viva Records, has released a compilation of its most requested songs in the new album "Red Hot OPM." Red Box is a sing-along joint in Metro Manila.

Among the songs in the album are "Before I Let You Go" by Freestyle, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" by Regine Velasquez and "Forever's Not Enough" by Sarah Geronimo.

Shedding light on what happens in the dark

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

PAULEEN Luna

PAULEEN LUNA ADMITS THAT MARvin Agustin visits her at home once or twice a week. "But *wala namang ligaw* factor. He brings me food from his resto. We're still getting to know each other. Even my parents and him are becoming closer. When we were both with ABS-CBN *pa*, we didn't have a chance to bond. Now we're with GMA, our friendship is starting to blossom." Will the former "Kapamilya" stars become each other's "Kapuso" for real?

Mild attack

BIANCA Gonzales is recovering from a mild attack of dengue fever. She was discharged from the hospital last Saturday. No visitors were allowed except for Bianca's ever dependable BF *Direk* Lino Cayetano, who never left her side. He truly loves her through thick and thin, sick and sin.

Hopeless yearning?

LOVI Poe is getting a lot of flak for saying that when her dad FPJ was still alive, he would fetch her every Sunday and cook for her. She also claims that they spent Christmases together. People privy to FPJ's life insist that the last time they saw Lovi was when she was still a toddler. Maybe she has her reasons for "recalling" these memories. Maybe a hopeless yearning?

True-to-life

Keanna Reeves is bent on showing all and sundry that she's not a Negastar anymore. After all the bad press she got lately, she's out to win the hearts of the public anew in Reality Entertainment's "Binibining K" (directed by Joven Tan, opening Sept. 13). It's a heartwarming rags-to-riches story. Keanna plays a simple girl who dreams of being a princess. So true-to-life for this controversial PBB winner. Does Binibining K really have 'K' in spite of all the negative issues hounding her?

'Twilight Dancers'

IN A country where boundaries no longer exist between show biz, politics and prostitution, the gay bar has become a symbol of society. The moment its doors open, anything can come in through the door to bring fame, money, and sometimes danger to the macho dancer.

Centerstage Productions' "Twilight Dancers" offers a disturbing yet humorous look at Philippine social realities through the eyes of three macho dancers.

Tyrone Perez, who plays a dancer at the peak of his trade, shrugs off rumors that he has a gay benefactor. "Just because my role is like that doesn't mean I'm like that as well in real life. I'm still paying for my car by installment. I don't have a rich lover to help me with that."

As the club's manager in the film, Arnell Ignacio puts it so aptly: "We are only here to serve the carnal desires of men." The show has to go on. The Ricardo Lee-Mel Chionglo masterpiece will have its world premiere at the Toronto International Festival on Sept. 8. Local screenings start Sept. 20. "Twilight Dancers" will shed light on what happens in the dark.

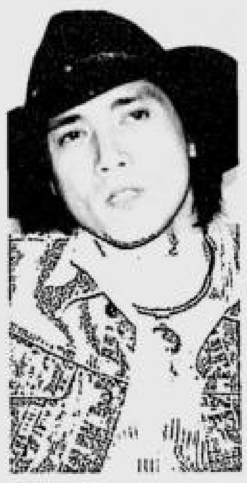
'The Truth'

UNDEFEATED UFC superstar Brandon Vera has become one of the dominant figures in the world of mixed martial arts. Known as "The Truth" to his legions of fans, soft-spoken and extremely polite, Brandon is the antithesis to the stereotype of the muscle-bound prized fighter. He credits his Italian-Filipino heritage for imbuing him with a strong sense of family values and an even temperament. But once he steps into the octagon, the broken bodies he leaves in his wake serve as a testament to the old saying, "The truth hurts." Brandon and his wife Kerry want to settle here. "It's Pinoy pride every time I fight. I tell the whole world I'm Filipino. I hope someday soon I'll also be well-known here in my homeland."

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com

Stop the press: I'm praying

RUSHES



ROBIN Padilla

MATT LeBlanc and "Joey" co-stars

ROBIN PADILLA WAS A FEW MINUTES LATE meeting with the press one day last week. But that was because the actor, an Islam convert, was saying his midday prayers.

Back-to-back babies

NEW YORK—Britney Spears, expecting baby No. 2, says she and husband Kevin Federline did not plan the pregnancy. "It just kind of happened," the 24-year-old singer told People magazine. "I'm going to wait a while for the next (one)!"

Eight months pregnant, Spears is mom to 11-month-old Sean Preston, the couple's first child. "I feel like I've been pregnant for 10 years!" she says.

Spears, who has gained about 40 pounds, says she is not about to ignore her cravings: "Crunching ice and chocolate, oh my God. I get up in the middle of the night and get a Hershey's bar ... I put it in the microwave and melt it and eat it. It sounds disgusting, but it's so satisfying." *AP*

Oprah in Manila?

OPRAH

We hear the "Oprah" show may be including Manila in its "Women of the World" series. It isn't clear if Oprah herself is coming.

Verbotten Madonna

BERLIN—A German bishop has urged fans to boycott pop diva Madonna's tour of the country which kicks off today amid a controversy because she is symbolically crucified on stage.

"I thought Madonna was better than this because she claims to be a religious person," Protestant Bishop Margot Kaesmann told Bild am Sonntag newspaper. "But maybe the only way an aging superstar can attract attention is to offend people's religious sentiments." *AFP*

Trouble at FAP

There's trouble at the FAP over the choice of the country's entry to the Oscars. Old guards are reportedly resisting "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." Homophobia?

MADONNA

Really, Joey?

LOS ANGELES—"Friends" actor Matt "Joey" LeBlanc has been sued for defamation by a woman who claims he made sexually charged comments about her that were published in the National Enquirer.

In the suit, filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court, Stephanie Stephens claims LeBlanc told an unspecified person in August 2005 that she was sexually aggressive, gave him a lap dance in a private room, and engaged him in a "night of sexual debauchery ... at her place of employment."

But that's something Joey would say on the show. *AP*

Too close to home

Angelica Panganiban has finally accepted, after much dilly-dallying, a role (in Joey Reyes' horror movie tentatively titled "Karma") that she initially refused supposedly because it hit too close to home: that of a TV star fighting tooth and nail for a part.

Hip-hop Elton

LOS ANGELES—After 40 years of performing rock music, pop ballads and movie soundtracks, Elton John is looking to cross over to yet another musical genre—hip hop.

"I want to bring my songs and melodies to hip-hop beats—a bit like 'No Diggity' by Blackstreet,'" John said in excerpts of an interview posted on Rolling Stone's website on Friday. Reuters

Self-promotion

NEW YORK—Paris Hilton is no stranger to self-promotion. Of her debut album, "Paris," the 25-year-old socialite says: "People go crazy. They love it. Everyone's like, 'Who is this?' I don't tell. Because I don't want someone putting their phone up and recording it and making a ring tone off of it.

"I think when people don't know it's me, they won't judge it. But if they know it's me, then they'll be like, 'Ugh.' They won't even dance. "I, like, cry, when I listen to it, it's so good." *AP*

Ziyi and "Hamlet"

HONG KONG—Zhang Ziyi avoided reading "Hamlet" when she made a Chinese director's film that is loosely based on the Shakespearean play, saying she hoped that would help make the interpretation more modern.

Director Feng Xiaogang's "The Banquet" changes the famous play's setting to ancient China. *AP*

PARIS Hilton AP

USHER AP

ELTON John AP

Robinsons MOVIEWORLD Can be YOUR CINEMA!

Open for advance screenings, product launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions. *PLUS! Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.*

For interested parties, you may contact Marketing Services Department 687-7945 to 47 • 633-4446 • 636-2894 locals 14/15

THX CERTIFIED CINEMA

CINEMAS
See it At its Best!

MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE!
THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

"This is an event. It is a rare example of a film not just living up to the hype, but surpassing it. And it is the best time you will have at the movies all summer, if not all year."
---Christy Lemire, AP [Associated Press]

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
NOW SHOWING
500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC
SNAKES ON A PLANE
NEW LINE CINEMA

'Samba! Samba!' video

FOLLOWERS OF "SAMBA! SAMBA!," THE latest Brazilian dance craze to hit Manila, can download the dance craze's music video for free by logging on to its official website www.sambasamba.com.ph.

KID FIT

Aside from getting into the groove, they will also have a chance to win gift packs and kitchen appliances courtesy of the Brazilian all-kids group Los Niños da Samba.

"Samba! Samba!," an infectious song-turned-dance craze, is fast becoming the "Macarena" and "Asereje" for kids of all ages today.

New time slot

Disney's "Little Einsteins," the innovative series that provides preschoolers with new ways to hear music and see art, moves to its new time slot at 6 p.m. every day on Playhouse Disney Channel.

In every episode, the Little Einsteins, with the help of their amazing, dynamic friend Rocket, embark on a mission of the day: to visit historical spots and landmarks.

Asian anime

Nickelodeon's Asian Anime Special features back-to-back adventures of "Avatar: The Legend of Aang" and "Kappa Mikey" every Saturday, 9 a.m. from Sept. 2 to Nov. 25, with repeats every Sunday and Friday at 5 p.m.

In his adventures on "Kappa Mikey," Mikey Simon, a struggling American actor from Cleveland, suddenly wins a role on LilyMu, Japan's top rated anime show. When he is recruited to join the cast, his co-stars know immediately that he is the wrong person for the job but the audience disagrees and Mikey quickly becomes Japan's newest rising star.

"Avatar: The Legend of Aang" chronicles the epic story of Aang, a 12-year-old boy who must restore balance in the war-ridden world by bravely leading the fight against the Fire Nation.

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Ali MALL Farmers Plaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY

Gateway Cineplex*10

FULL STADIUM SEATING

SNAKES ON A PLANE 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	LITTLE MAN 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 1:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
MORTUARY 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	CLICK 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45	SUKOB 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

Gateway PLATINUM CINEMA

RESERVED
NEXT PICTURE:
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

Ali MALL 5

SNAKES ON A PLANE 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	LITTLE MAN 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
OH MY GHOST 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20	SUKOB 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

WESTLIFE: FACE TO FACE IN MANILA	BITUING WALANG NINGNING - GRAND SHOWDOWN
September 4, Monday - 8:00 pm	September 19, Tuesday - 8:00 pm

---

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LITTLE MAN
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

2 CLICK
MTRCB PG-13
12:50, 3:10, 5:30

4 CLICK
MTRCB PG-13
7:50, 10:10

PREMIERE THEATRE
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(EXCEPT FOR MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND)
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14 enjoy special prices of P99 for Cinemas 1-4, P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, and in conjunction with other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

MAGIC 89.9 and Eastwood City
PRESENT

Eto na! APO ang Launch

A Special tribute concert to the APO Hiking Society

Featuring:
Orange and Lemons • Barbie Almalbis • Itchyworms • Moonstar • Imago • Boldstar • Kamikazee • Parokya ni Edgar • Sandwich • The Sound Drip • Shamrock • Top Suzara • Sponge Cola • Rocksteddy

Aug. 31, 2006 / 7 PM
Eastwood Central Plaza

FREE ADMISSION

Eastwood City
Tel. 687-4770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

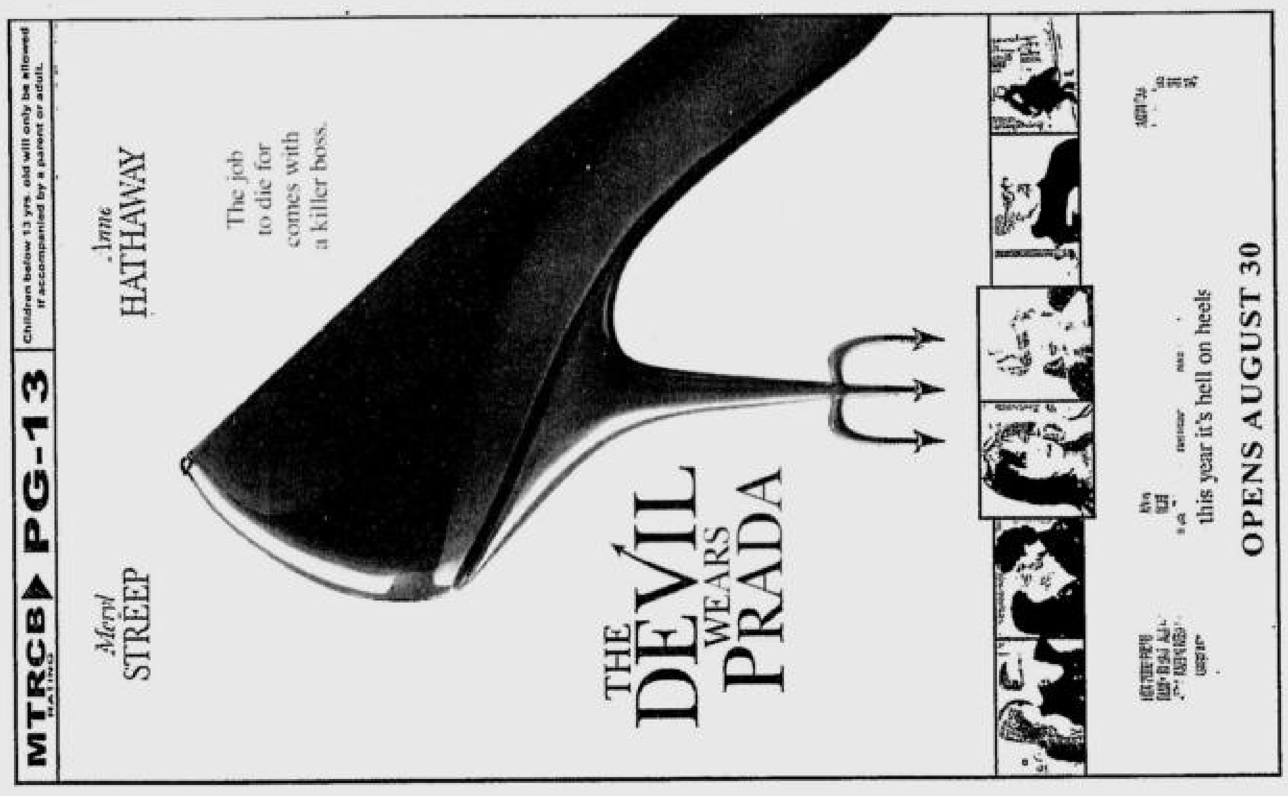
EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	LITTLE MAN	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-13
2	SNAKES ON A PLANE	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
3	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-13
4	CLICK	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05	PG-13


MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Meryl STREEP
Anne HATHAWAY
The job to die for comes with a killer boss.
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
this year it's hell on heels
OPENS AUGUST 30

---

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	3 CLICK	4 LITTLE MAN			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 LITTLE MAN	2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	3 THX SNAKES ON A PLANE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FREEDOMLAND	5 SUKOB	6 AMERICAN DREAMZ	7 CLICK
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SNAKES ON A PLANE	2 LITTLE MAN / GERMAN FILMFEST					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX LITTLE MAN 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:30, 4:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 CLICK 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11;20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SNAKES ON THE PLANE 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX LITTLE MAN	2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ	5 CLICK		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	2 LITTLE MAN	3 AMERICAN DREAMZ	4 FIERCE PEOPLE			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	2 SUKOB	3 OH MY GHOST	4 LITTLE MAN	5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cirque Imago August 25 to 27, 2006	Cirque Imago August 18 to 20
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
5th Philippines Robotics Olympiad August 26, 2006	Cirque Imago August 22 to 24, 2006

GREENBELT
Jazz Nights at GB 2
August 16, 23 & 30, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents
Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR.
at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
June 27 to August 27, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

---

GOETHE-INSTITUT MANILA

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

The 3rd German Silent Film Festival

presents

The Golem

(How He Came into the World)

with music by Drip

on Tuesday, August 29, 2006, at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2, 8:00 PM

CAREPAK

making great things possible
Globe

GREENBELT

THE BIG HOME SALE

Ayala Malls

up to 70% discount on selected items from participating Home Stores

AUGUST 22-31, 2006

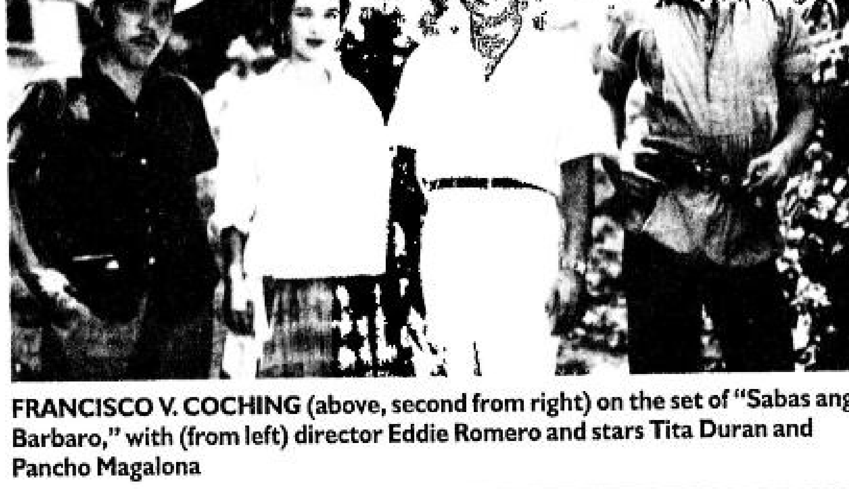
GLORIETTA
A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE • ABENSON • ASIAN FINDS • BLIMS & SOGO • CEREO CANDLE • COOKS EXCHANGE • DIMENSIONE • GE ARISTON • GOURDO'S • HOME & BEYOND • HOMEBOUND • KUYSEN • LIVING CRAFTS • MAKE ROOM • MOEN HOME LIVING • PHILUX FURNITURE • PLAY & DISPLAY • PINKY COLLECTION • POINTE EAST GALLERY • REGALONG PAMBAHAY • RESTORATION • ROBLES HERITAGE • SHELL CANVAS • SHOWCASE CARPETS • SLEEPCARE • VICTORIA • WOMAN • ZABA
GREENBELT
ABOUT DESIGN • BLIMS FURNITURE • BOUMAN BED 'N BEDDINGS

glorietta GREENBELT

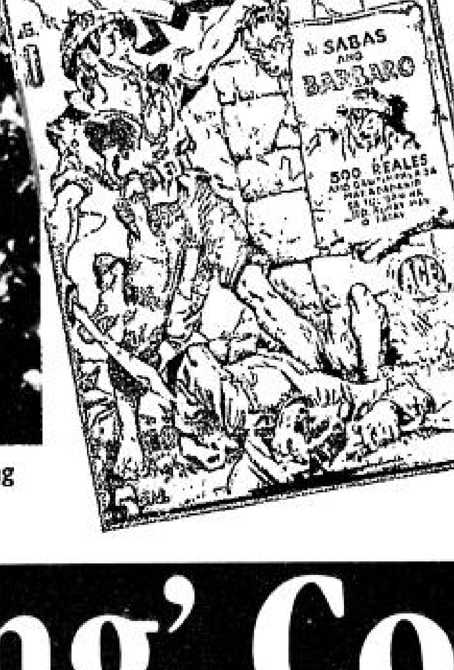
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible], Series of 2006.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer ent name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



FRANCISCO V. COCHING (above, second from right) on the set of "Sabas ang Barbaro," with (from left) director Eddie Romero and stars Tita Duran and Pancho Magalona



ANNUAL ART AWARDS
The Society of Philippine Illustrators and Cartoonists
Liwayway
Liwayway

THE DEAN (above, left) with fellow Ace artists and Miss Philippines 1963 Lalaine Bennett, fifth from left, and Manila Mayor Antonio Villegas, third from right

'Kuwentong' Coching

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Roger Margallo

IF YOU ASK HER, HER LATE husband Francisco V. Coching, the dean of *komiks* novelists-illustrators, was as heroic as the characters in his action-packed novels—most of which were turned into big-screen spectacles.

Still feisty at 82, Filomena "Luming" Coching recalls that when they met as teenagers in pre-war Pasay, her husband Koko was a "cowboy."

He was footloose and fancy-free, a playboy, she recounts. But he also started working at a very tender age.

"He was an all-around assistant in Liwayway, where his father, Gregorio Coching, also a novelist, was employed," she relates.

His father was an award-winning writer, whose most famous work "Sanggumay" was turned into a movie starring Yolanda Marquez (now known as Mary Prieto).

"Instead of accepting a raise, my father-in-law asked his bosses if they could hire his son," she recounts.

Soon enough, Koko's talent as artist and writer was discovered through his first cartoon series "Bing Bigotilyo" for Silahis in 1934. He was only 15.

"At 22, he created his first serial, 'Marabini' or '*marahas na binibini*' (violent maiden), which was interrupted by the war," she remembers.

When the World War II broke out in 1941, Koko joined the guerrilla movement against the Japanese. This period in Koko's life was a page straight from one of his *komiks* classics.

"He was part of the Kamagong Unit, Las Piñas command of ROTC Hunters," she says.

Inspiration

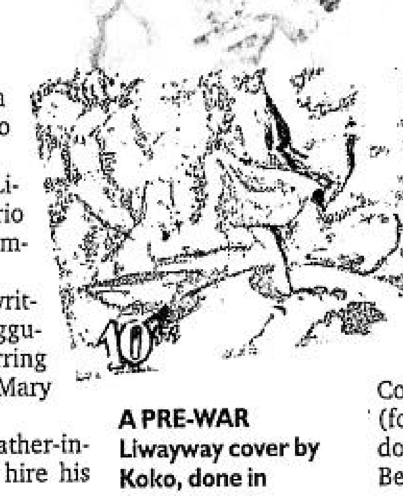
The Hunters' missions involved stealing tires, arms and other supplies from Japanese barracks.

"Once, they pretended to be part of a funeral march, complete with wailing women, in Parañaque, but hidden in the coffin were firearms," she recalls.

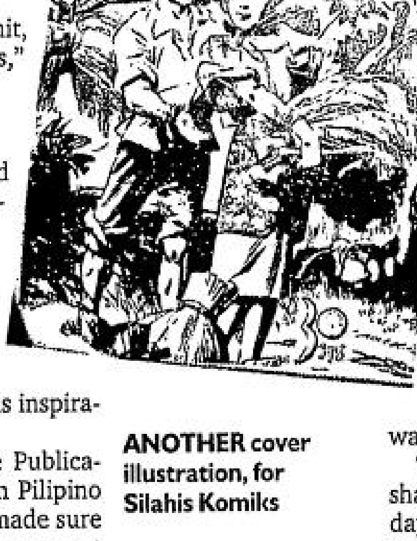
Koko's war-time exploits served as inspiration for his action novels.

After the war, he moved to Ace Publications, which serialized his novels in Pilipino and Espesyal Komiks. "But he also made sure to write at least one novel for Liwayway, out of loyalty," she says.

YESTERDAY



A PRE-WAR Liwayway cover by Koko, done in watercolor



ANOTHER cover illustration, for Silahis Komiks

His works' film versions top-billed the biggest male stars: "Bertong Balutan" (1949) and "Hagibis" (1950) for Fernando Poe Sr.; "Satur" (1951), Manuel Conde; "Palasig" (1952) and "Dumagit" (1954), Cesar Ramirez; "Agilang Itim" (1953), Eddie del Mar; and "Pedro Penduko" (1954) and "Salabusab" (1954), Efren Reyes.

In 1952, he transformed matinee idol Pancho Magalona into a *salakot*-wearing rebel in "Sabas ang Barbaro," directed by National Artist for Film Eddie Romero and co-starred Tita Duran.

Apart from "Marabini," he created other heroines legendary for their beauty and chutzpah: "Maldita" (1953) and "Talipandas" (1958), both played by Rita Gomez on the big screen.

In 1971, he created "Bella Bandida," portrayed by Rosanna Ortiz.

"His edge was that he was both a writer and illustrator," Luming says. "There were times he'd be working on three novels at the same time."

Aside from Romero, the other National Artists who worked with Coching were directors Lamberto Avellana (for "Satur" and "Lapu-Lapu" in 1955), Gerardo de Leon ("Pedro Penduko") and Ishmael Bernal ("El Vibora" in 1972) and actor Fernando Poe Jr. ("Duwag ang Sumuko" in 1964).

Interference

His four-decade career as the "dean of the *komiks* industry" ended in the martial-law era.

"He hated it when other people interfered with his ideas. So when the censors rejected his title 'Aagos ang Dugo' and changed it to 'Sa Ngalan ng Batas,' he decided to retire."

His last published novel "El Negro" (in Liwayway) also made it to the big screen in 1974, with Eddie Gutierrez and Robert Jaworski as lead stars.

But even in retirement, he refused to be idle. "I called him Kikong Kalikot because he was so active."

But in his studio, he was extremely focused and abhorred being disturbed by the kids.

The Cochings had six children—Lourdes, Precy, Francisco Jr., Maridel, Orlando and Arnel.

"As kids, our Abakada (alphabet) book was my father's *komiks*," Maridel says.

"Even in old age, his eyesight was very sharp. He loved reading the newspaper every day," quips Luming.

He passed away in 1998, after a protracted battle with emphysema and an injury sustained in a motorcycle accident. He was 79.

For 40 years in the *komiks* trade, she was his "official letterer," turning his doodle marks into legible print in his novels' dialogue balloons.

She now spends her sunset years in relative anonymity, save for occasional appearances in TV commercials.

"My youngest son owns a casting agency *kasi*." Acting is also in the blood, she explains. "My mother is Sampaguita character actress Aring Bautista (Aurea Otalla in real life)."

But her husband's work remains to be her most enduring passion.

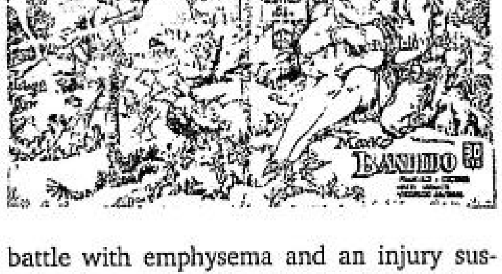
Eight years after his death, she still fights his battles—pursuing his posthumous bid for National Artist and making sure his name will not be forgotten.

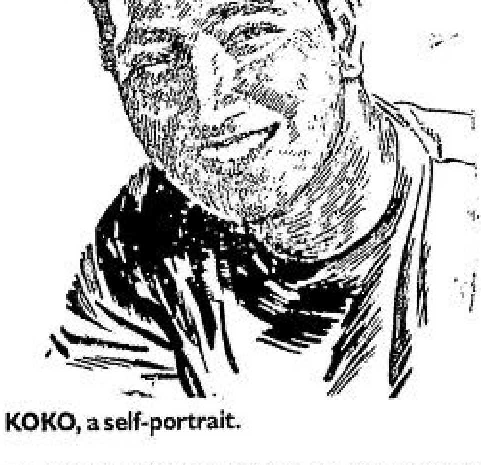
She recently raised a ruckus when ABS-CBN failed to credit her husband in the new TV incarnation of "Pedro Penduko."

"His name is his legacy, which I could bequeath to my four children, 20 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren," she concludes.

LUMING in her garden at home, still Koko's feisty and fiery advocate at 82

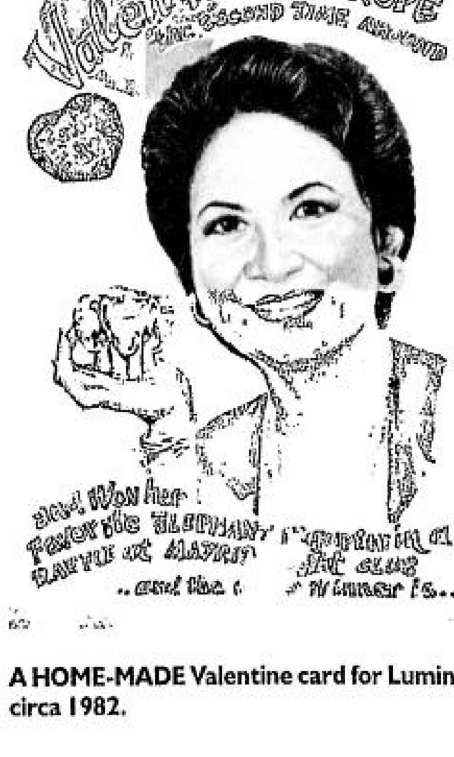
The widow of 'Pedro Penduko' creator remembers him as though he were a hero himself in an action-packed novel



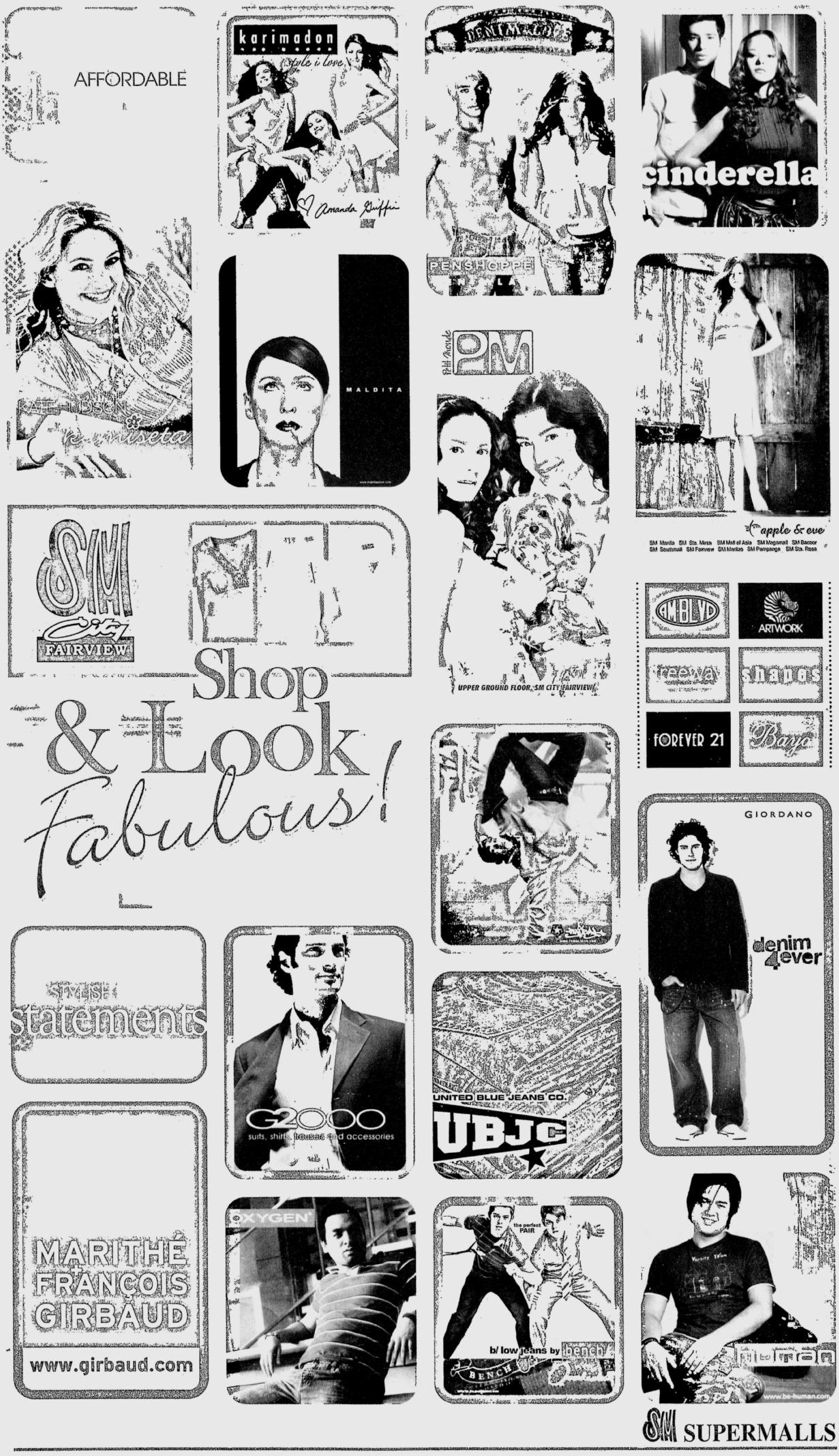


KOKO, a self-portrait.

LUMING, with son Arnel and daughter Maridel; at right is Koko's photograph right before his death at age 79



A HOME-MADE Valentine card for Luming, circa 1982.


AFFORDABLE
karimadon
style i love
Amanda Griffin
DENIMALDO'S
PENSHOPPE
cinderella
KATE HUDSON
kamiseta
MALDITA
Petit Monde
PM
apple & eve
AMBLVD
ARTWORK
freeway
shapos
FOREVER 21
Bayo
GIORDANO
denim 4ever
UNITED BLUE JEANS CO.
UBJC
G2000
suits, shirts, trousers and accessories
OXYGEN
the perfect PAIR
b/ low jeans by bench
BENCH
human
www.be-human.com
STYLISH
statements
MARITHÉ
FRANÇOIS
GIRBAUD
www.girbaud.com

SM City FAIRVIEW

Shop & Look Fabulous!

UPPER GROUND FLOOR, SM CITY FAIRVIEW

SM Manila SM Sta. Mesa SM Mall of Asia SM Megamall SM Bacoor
SM Southmall SM Fairview SM Marilao SM Pampanga SM Sta. Rosa

SM SUPERMALLS

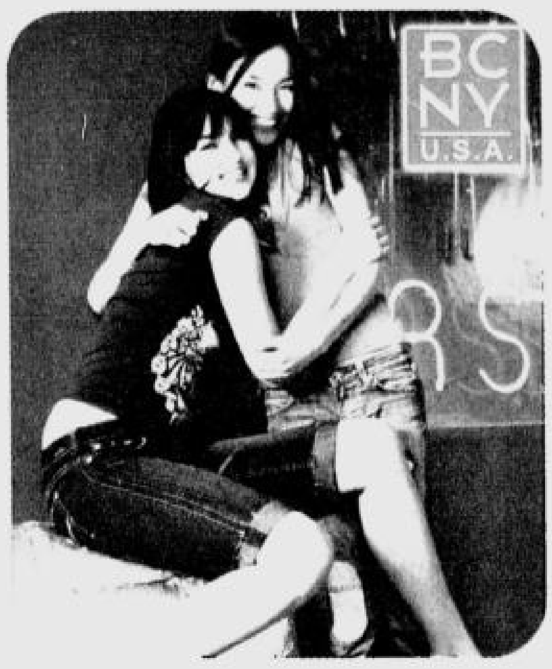
CASUAL

Gingersnaps

mint
www.mint.com.ph

HANG TEN

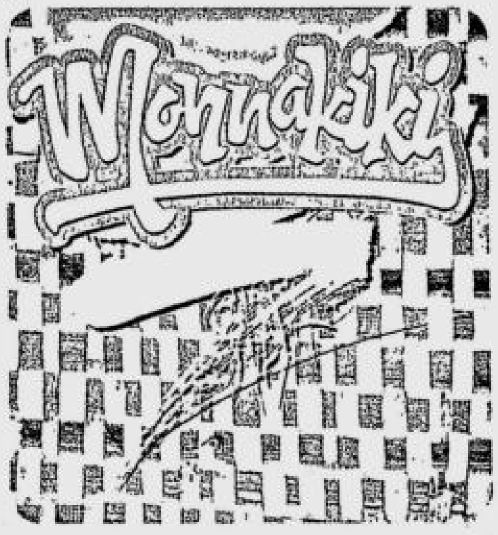
2B
UPPER GROUND FLOOR, ANNEX, SM CITY FAIRVIEW



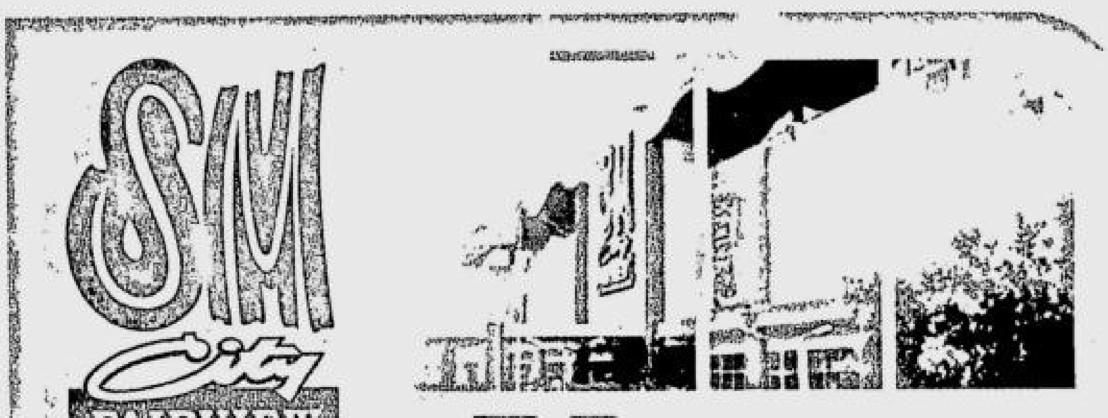
b/ low jeans
by
Overhaul

genevieve
gozum

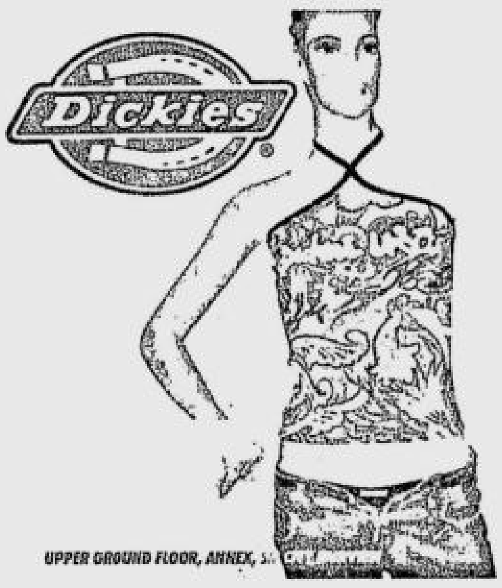
SINCE 1895
OSHKOSH
B'gosh



YOUR
RULES
YOUR
STYLE
Y.R.Y.S.
UPPER GROUND FLOOR, SM CITY FAIRVIEW,


SM
City
FAIRVIEW

You are What you Wear


Dickies
UPPER GROUND FLOOR, ANNEX, S

GLIMPSE.

G

occasions

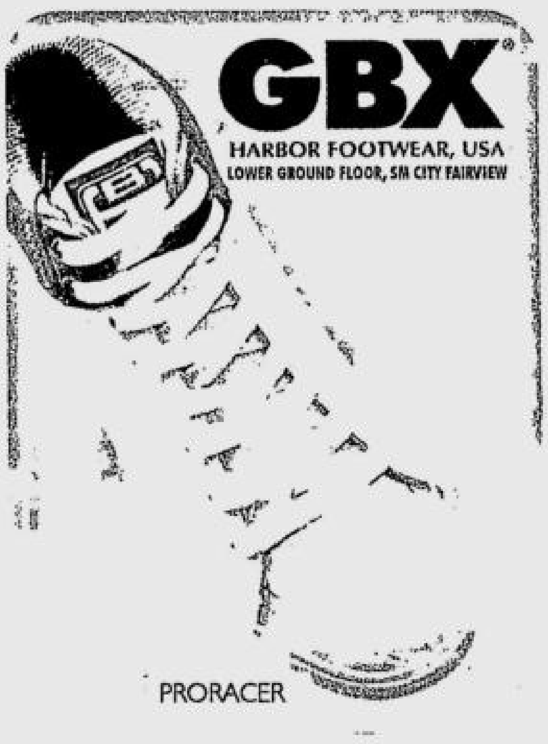
scoop

TEENLAB

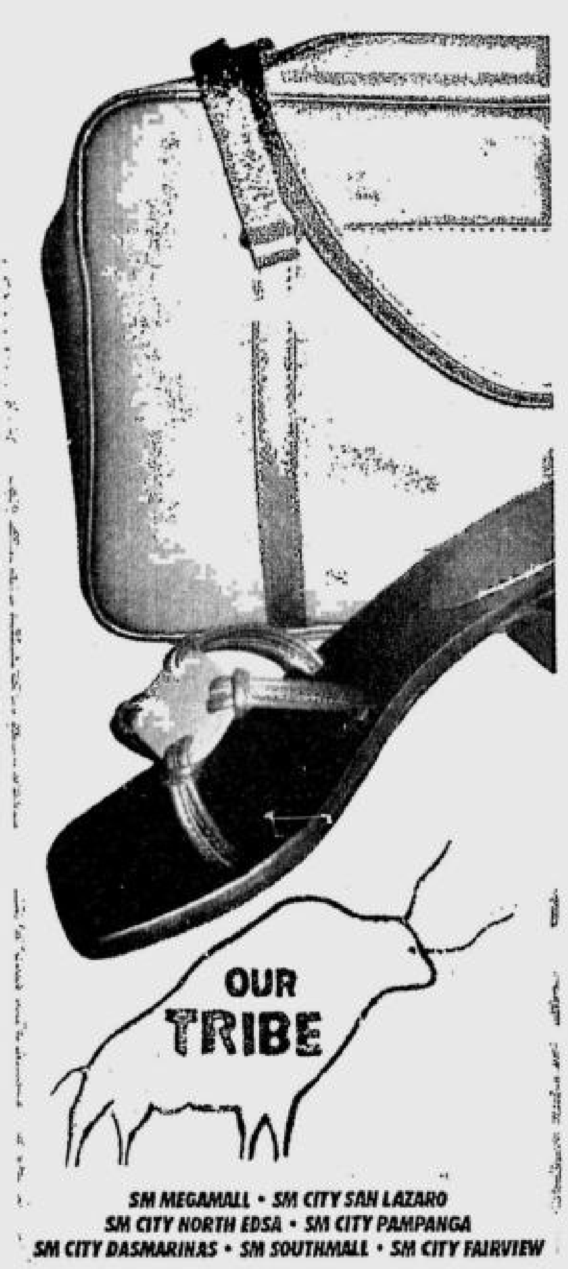
bench BODY

FH | folded&hung

BCBL

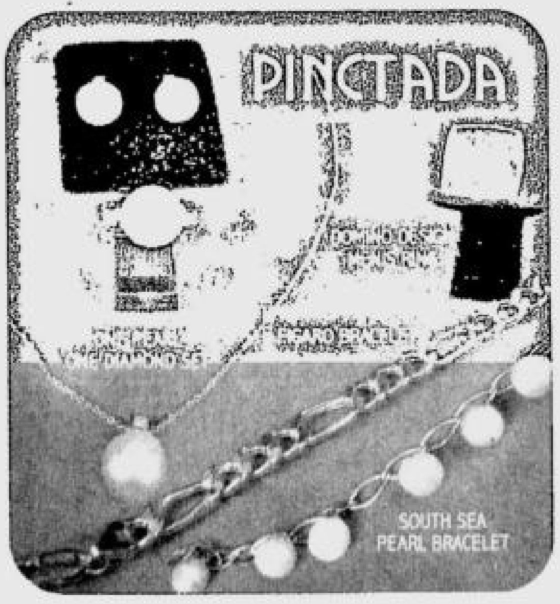

GBX
HARBOR FOOTWEAR, USA
LOWER GROUND FLOOR, SM CITY FAIRVIEW
PRORACER

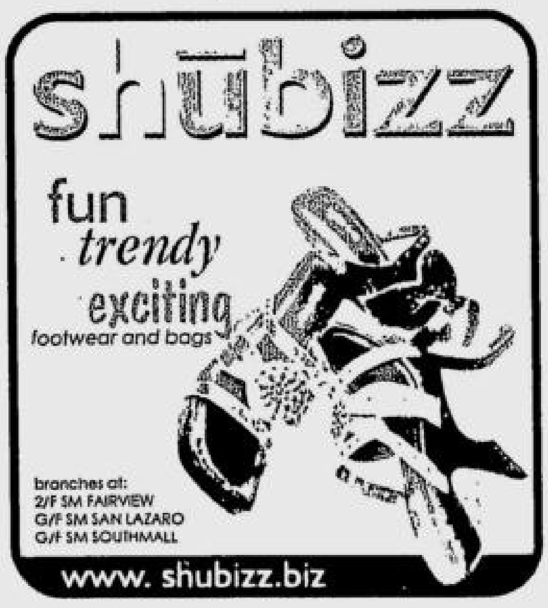
CITY TIME
TAG HEUER
CARRERA
AUTOMATIC

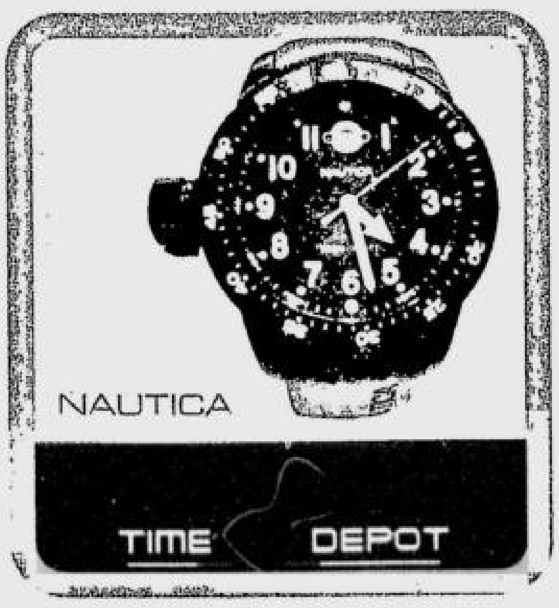

OUR
TRIBE
SM MEGAMALL • SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY PAMPANGA
SM CITY DASMARINAS • SM SOUTHMALL • SM CITY FAIRVIEW

Cardam's
UPPER GROUND FLOOR, SM CITY FAIRVIEW

Alixandré
LOWER GROUND FLOOR, SM CITY FAIRVIEW


PINCTADA
SOUTH SEA
PEARL BRACELET


shubizz
fun
trendy
exciting
footwear and bags
branches at:
2/F SM FAIRVIEW
G/F SM SAN LAZARO
G/F SM SOUTHMALL
www. shubizz.biz


NAUTICA
TIME DEPOT

SM SUPERMALLS

SPECTACULAR

ELECTROWORLD

Asianic

SEMICON
TELECOM EXCELLENCE WITHIN YOUR REACH
www.semicon.net

We're Offering **Deferred Payments** on selected Mobile Phones & Accessories

6 Months •
12 Months •
24 Months •

*Unlimited EPS BPI Payments on selected mobile phone accessories.

BRANCHES

SM Megamall • SM City Sta. Mesa • SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview • SM City Manila • SM Southmall • SM City Pampanga • SM City Lucena • SM City Cebu • SM City Cagayan de Oro • SM City Davao • SM City Iloilo

Introducing
SMART BRO
AMAZING WIRELESS BROADBAND
Up to
kbps

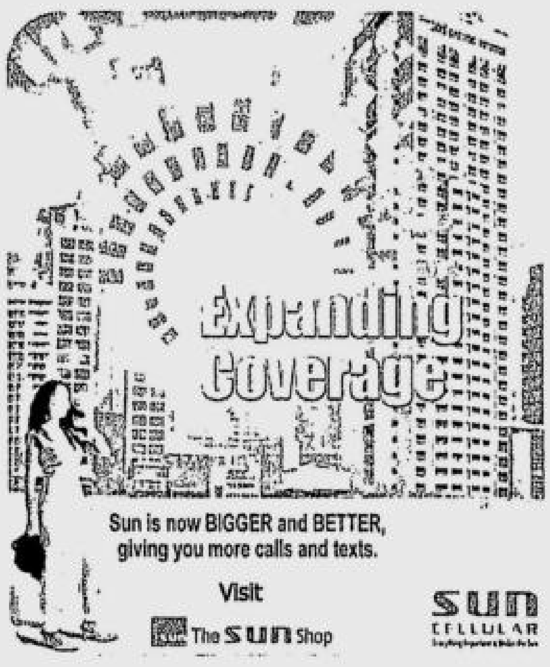
Featuring
UNLIMITED BROADBAND • INSTANT LOG-ON • NO PHONE LINE NEEDED* • NATIONWIDEST COVERAGE
To inquire/apply: Call *3888 toll-free from your Smart Cellular Phone. You may also visit the website www.smart.com.ph
*within the SMART Network

MOTOROLA
V3X
NOKIA
Nseries
NOKIA N91

Globe
Exclusives
Flexible choices
FOR POSTPAID & PREPAID
NOKIA
NOKIA

NOKIA 3220
FREE
AT EXTENSION PLAN 250

NOKIA 6020
FREE
AT EXTENSION PLAN 250
P5,990
PREPAID PHONEKIT


Expanding
Coverage

Sun is now BIGGER and BETTER, giving you more calls and texts.

Visit
The SUN Shop

SUN CELLULAR

GAMES & GADGETS

Power Telecomshop

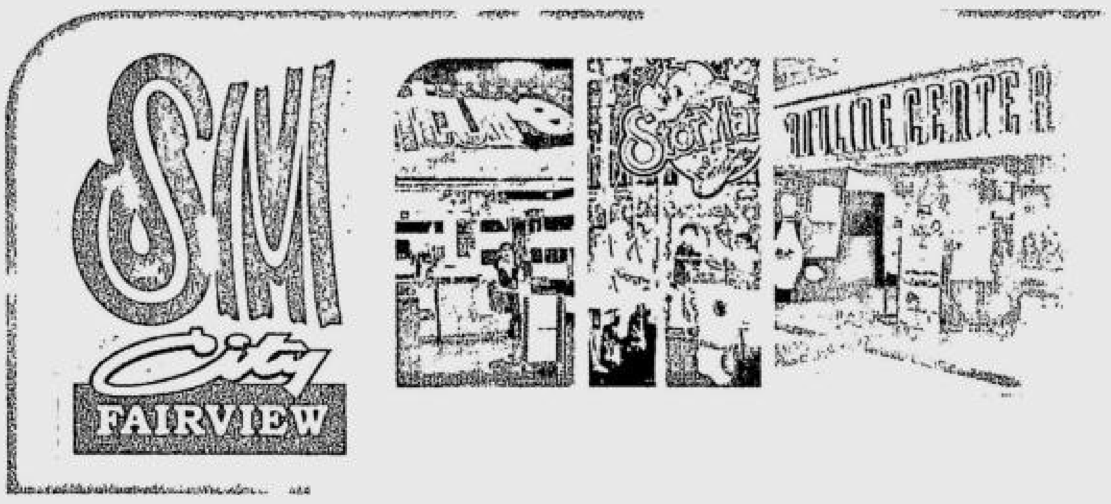
pchub

MSA

TWINLINE trading
Mobile Phone Swapping and Trade-in Center

WELLCOM
TELECOM SUPERMARKET

Digital
King Com
INJOY MS-02
MP4
Slide Phone


SM
City
FAIRVIEW

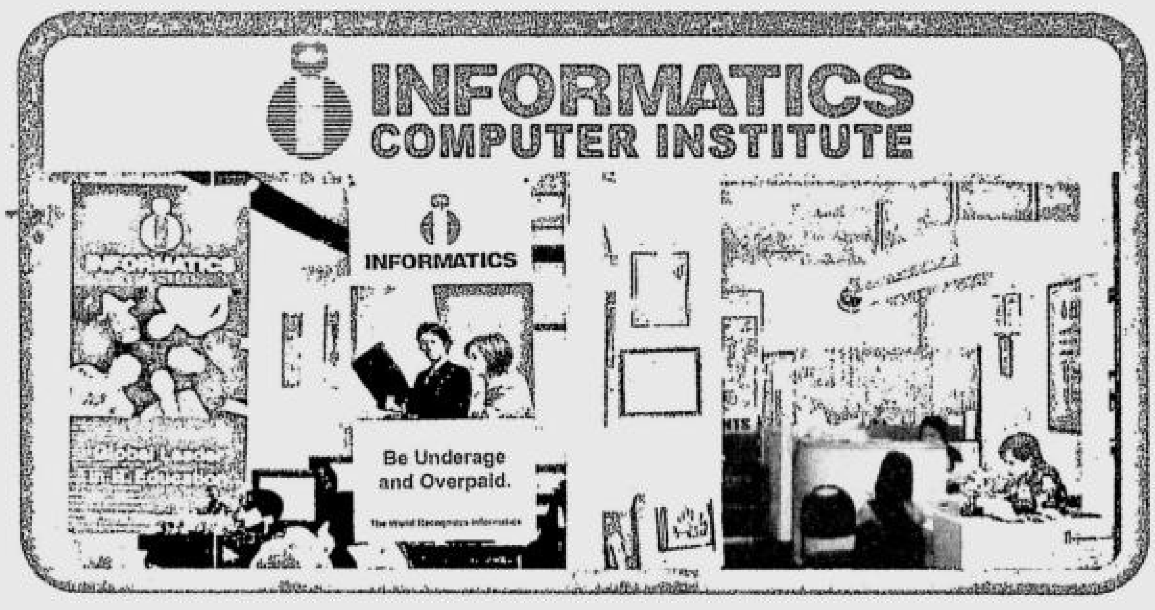
Make the Connection

NOKIA
Nseries
N70
NOKIA
Nseries
N91

DGD Trading
Cellphone Swapping / Trade - In Center

PC corner

cd-r king™
your one-stop media provider


INFORMATICS
COMPUTER INSTITUTE
INFORMATICS
INFORMATICS
Be Underage and Overpaid.

Save on Surplus
S.O.S.
Save on Surplus
INTEL PENTIUM 4 @ 1.7GHZ

Netopi@
Internet Café
DIGITAL
PHOTO
PRINTING
for as low as P 7.00/print
Netopi@
Internet Café

EXCEL
Your INTERNET Home in SM
FASTEST
INTERNET ACCESS
With TRAINED Computer Assistants always ready to assist you
FREE !
Webcam & Headset Use
Computer Rental • Laser Printing • Color Printing
Pc Gaming • Layout Research • Encoding
Scanning • Calling Card • Invitation
MORE !!!

BLUE
NOTEBOOK
PCdomain

COMPEX
INTERNATIONAL, INC.
CASIO
EXILIM
10.1 MEGA PIXELS

CASIO
10.1 MEGAPIXELS
DIGITAL CAMERA

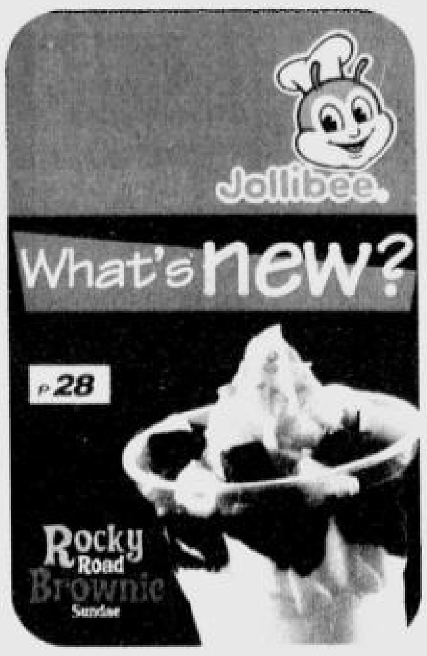
PREMIER
VIDEO
CAMERA
DV 5040
MPEG 4

SM SUPERMALLS

CHEF D' ANGELO
CLAIM YOUR GREEN CARD HERE!
"Green Iced Tea, Treat Card"
Free Treats everytime you visit
August 1 to September 31 2006
PER DTI-NCR Permit No. 2404 Series of 2006

BIG CLASSIC
HAMBURGER
BIGGIE
Wendy's
For Delivery, call: 533-3333

DUNKIN DONUTS
funsize!
P10 each
lahat ng paborito ninyong flavors
P120
ang dosena

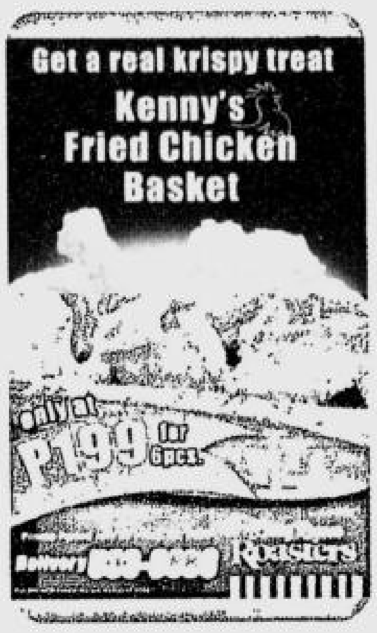

Jollibee
What's new?
P28
Rocky Road Brownie
Sundae

Bagong Bigating Merienda!
Max's
Crispy Bihon
& Chicken Fingers
P79
Max's

New & Improved!
Chowking
Noodles & Congee
Masarap Kasabay...

Shakey's
Calamari Crunch! Feast
It's crunch time!
P499
P153
77777

NEW
GREAT TASTE.
GREAT VALUE.
P69
ONLY.
Coca-Cola
WHOPPER JR.
AND LARGE COKE COMBO
BURGER KING


Get a real krispy treat
Kenny's
Fried Chicken
Basket
Only at
P199 for 6pcs.
Delivery
Roasters

LIMITED SUPPLY!
The new
BBQ RIBS
Cheesy Volcano
Pinaka pizza
Pizza Hut

SM City
FAIRVIEW
Life's
Great
Flavors
& Pleasures

CHINABANK
www.chinabank.ph
Since 1920

A full-service universal bank serving you thru 141 on-line branches with longer banking hours (9 AM to 4 PM) and over 200 ATMs nationwide.

SM FAIRVIEW BRANCH
Lower Ground Floor, SM City Fairview
Quirino Ave., cor. Regalado Ave.,
Fairview, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 417-2878 and 939-3105
Fax No. 418-8228
Ma. Nila B. Dujunco, *Branch Manager*

FASTcard
Special
times call
for just
the right gift.
Equitable PCI
4559 1234 5678
RODRIGUEZ

Karate Kid
Congo Grille
YELLOW CAB
Pizza Co.
Mocha Blends
Ayutthaya
TED'S
Everything you love at
CUPRICHOS

Over P5Million
worth of total prizes!
Win an Isuzu
P100,000
P20,000
3 Asian Luxury Cruises
2 Family Trips to Boracay
4 Motorbikes!
The 6th SM
Bowling
Cup Tournament
June 21, 2006 to May 20, 2007
Open to
Everyone!
ACCEL

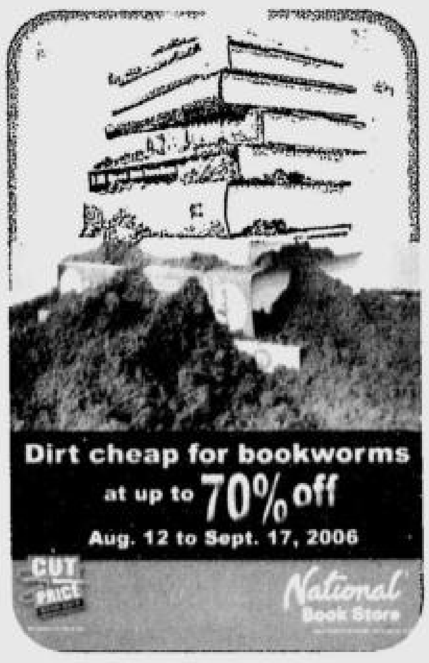
MANDARIN CHINESE DRUG CENTER

buff Spa

THE OPTICAL SHOP

SM City
FAIRVIEW
3 day sale
sept 1•2•3

Blue Magic!
BEATRICE
SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY FAIRVIEW
SM CITY MANILA • SM SOUTHMALL
SM MALL OF ASIA • SM CITY PAMPANGA
SM CITY LUCENA


Dirt cheap for bookworms
at up to 70% off
Aug. 12 to Sept. 17, 2006
CUT PRICE
National Book Store

collectibles
ducati 999
porsche 911 GT2

up to
50% OFF
great
selections
mall hours : 10am - 10pm
win 20
WOW

SM SUPERMALLS